

## Holsey Says FCA Helps Farmers Hold Their Land

WASHINGTON—Colored farmers, like the other farmers of the nation, are being aided by the Farm Credit Administration in holding on to their land and in increasing their net worth, says Albon L. Holsey, assistant to the president of Tuskegee Institute.

Mr. Holsey, who is serving as part-time FCA consultant, made this observation in a report which he submitted recently to I. W. Duggan, Governor of Farm Credit, following a tour of farms in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The tour was made by Mr. Holsey at the request of Governor Duggan for the purpose of finding out the extent of Negro participation in the credit services of the agencies supervised by FCA.

During the tour, Mr. Holsey conferred with Federal Land Bank and Production Credit Association officials, and visited several colored farm families.

Near Alexandria, La., he visited the 118-acre farm of Elijah Moore, who has been able to hold on to his land largely as a result of credit assistance he has received from his Production Credit Association.

In 1942, two successive crop failures, the death of two of his mules, and a mortgage on his farm had Mr. Moore hard pressed. But his PCA loaned him enough to replace his mules, meet the payment on his mortgage note, and to make a crop. At that time, his net worth was only \$2,700; today, it's in excess of \$10,000.

Another Louisiana colored farmer, George Figgins, was about to lose his farm a few years back when he shifted from cotton to potatoes with disastrous results. In other years he had demonstrated his ability as a successful farmer so his PCA extended him additional credit, enabling him to hang on to his land, return to cotton, and pay off his debts.

In Mississippi, Mr. Holsey visited a father and son team, Will Walker, Sr., and Jr., whose net worth now exceeds \$50,000. The elder Walker started out as a tenant farmer after dropping out of Morehouse college. He skimped and saved up to buy a farm of his own. Finally, with the aid of a Federal Land Bank, he bought 300 acres near Tupelo.

Today, he and his son own 770 acres. Last year, they harvested 300 tons of hay, 800 bushels of corn, and 101 bales of cotton. They own 22 head of workstock, two tractors, two trucks, and a hay baler.

In concluding his report, Mr. Hol-

sey says that the Federal Land Banks and the Production Credit Associations are a great help to colored farmers. These agencies, he states, have assisted many farmers in need of sound credit aid based upon collateral and ability to repay.

In addition to Mr. Holsey, FCA has a full-time Negro administrative officer, A. H. Fuhr, who spends a large part of his time in the field helping to acquaint colored farmers with the credit services available through the agencies supervised by Farm Credit.

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## Top-Soil And Bottom-Land

FARM Credit Administration which makes possible reasonable loans to farmers has a full-time administrative officer who is colored.—A. H. Fuhr. He spends most of his time in the field helping colored farmers get a break.

Albon L. Holsey, assistant to President Patterson of Tuskegee, is also employed by Farm Credit as a part-time consultant. Recently he made a tour of colored owned or operated farms in Louisiana and Mississippi, and reports that in spite of things standing between the Negro farmer and government assistance the colored farmers are getting loans and thus holding on to their land.

Sherman Briscoe of Agriculture Dept. Information tells us that Kentucky colored 4-H boys and girls sold \$4,365 worth of calves and pigs recently at their second annual livestock show in Russellville. Ray Young of Round Pond Community won the \$300 prize money for champion calf. His Aberdeen Black Angus weighed 1,015 lbs. Champion pig weighed 320 lbs., and was owned by Virgil Dickerson of Adairville.

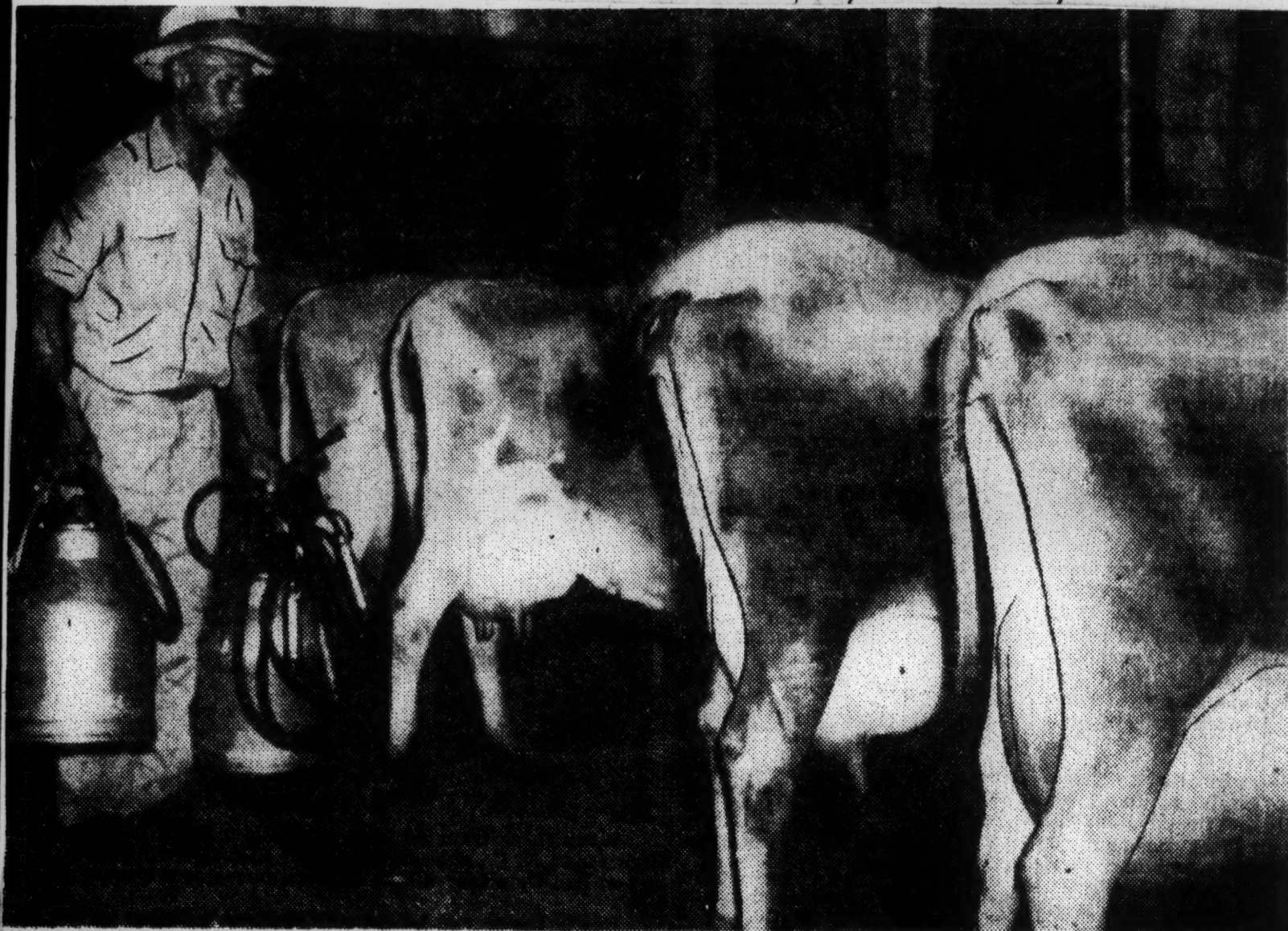
In Elloree, S. C., Willie and Robert Williams, colored farmers took advice of Farm Agent and stopped starving trying to raise nothing but cotton and corn. Now they have only 85 acres in cotton and let five tenant families handle that. Their other 265 acres are devoted to truck farming and livestock. They gross about \$18,000 a year now. This year's string bean crop alone brought in \$7,000.



# Top Alabama Dairy Farmer Grosses \$10,000 Annually

La 1949

Crops and Production (Dairy Production) Alabama



Top picture shows Julius H. Pickett, one of Alabama's top dairy farmers, is shown with his mechanical milkers, preparing to milk his herd of high-grade Jerseys. Mr. Pickett switched from cotton to dairying several years ago when he found that grass and boll weevils were taking the major share of his crop. He now grosses close to \$10,000 annually as a dairy farmer.

Bottom: Mr. Pickett is shown bottling milk for his customers. At left is Dr. J. R. Oth, president of Alcorn College and former leader of extension work in Alabama. Mr. Pickett retails most of his milk to customers in Uniontown, Ala. Surplus milk is sold to a nearby creamery.—USDA Photos



# Alabama Dairyman Sets *Journal and Guide* Milk Production Example

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Julius H. Pickett, \$10,000-a-year dairy farmer of Uniontown, Ala., has set an example which many small farmers may find profitable to follow as cotton mechanization increases, says the Alabama State Extension Service.

His milking chore is easier now, too, since he installed milking machines. Within a couple of hours, he and one helper do the whole job, and he is off to town to serve his customers. Surplus milk is sold to the creamery.

## HELPED NEIGHBORS

Mr. Pickett grew up on his father's 1,000-acre cotton farm. And after student days at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., he helped his father manage their farm. Often he saw his father gross as much as \$30,000 of cotton. So he got in the habit of thinking of acres in terms of bales of cotton.

But in 1929, when his father divided his land among his 10 children, Julius received a 96-acre plot which turned out to be unsuited for cotton. No matter how hard he worked, plowing, planting, and chopping, there was little cotton to harvest in the Fall. Mr. Pickett says that what the grass didn't choke out, the boll weevils got.

*Nonfolk*  
It didn't take him long to realize that only his wife's school teaching saved him, and what he received for a calf or two and the milk he sold in town kept them going.

Mr. Pickett got to thinking—maybe he ought to try his hand at dairying full-time. Even milking a couple of cows spoiled his Sundays; he might as well make it worthwhile.

That Fall, he bought three head of grade Jersey cows, bringing the number in his herd to six. These were sired by Jersey bulls whose offsprings had high milk production records.

During his first year of full-time dairy farming, he grossed \$2,000 from the milk he sold to a nearby creamery and that he retailed to customers in town. At a glance, his income looked good compared to that cotton had brought. But when he looked a little closer and checked on his feed costs, he wasn't so optimistic about dairying.

## PASTURE DEVELOPMENT

Then his county agent invited him to join a group of farmers who were going to visit the Black Belt Experiment Station to observe pasture development. There Mr. Pickett learned that a good pasture is one of the best ways to lowering the cost of milk production.

Immediately, he began improving his pastures. The next year, profits shot up. Today, he has 30 head of high grade Jerseys grazing on Dallas grass, clover, and other forage crops. And his annual gross income during the last few years has averaged close to \$10,000.

So well has Mr. Pickett developed his dairy that the U. S. Department of Agriculture got him to conduct short-courses in dairying during the war to help his neighbors increase their milk output.

Annually, the Alabama State Extension Service conducts a tour of his farm to show how Black Belt area farmers may shift partly or wholly from cotton to dairying. And Mr. Pickett has broadcast his story over a Birmingham station. The Alabama Extension Service points out to Black Belt farmers that the area is just naturally suited to pastures which makes dairying an excellent alternative to cotton. The agency also reminds farmers that Alabama imports dairy products.



# 500,000 Cotton Farmers are Eligible To Cast Acreage Limitation Ballots

WASHINGTON—All farmers—tenants, sharecroppers, and owners—who grew cotton in 1948 are eligible to vote in the national cotton marketing quota referendum on Dec. 15. *Conner.*

It is estimated that nearly half a million colored farmers are eligible to vote in the referendum. *12-10-49*

If two-thirds of those voting this year approve, marketing quotas will be used for the 1950 cotton crop, and growers who plant within their farm acreage allotments will be eligible for price support loans of 50 per cent of parity, and they can market their entire crop penalty-free. *Eligible*

But those who exceed their allotments must pay a penalty on their excess production before they can market any of their crop. If quotas are not approved, price support will be limited to 50 per cent of parity.

Cotton marketing quotas and acreage allotments are provided by farm program legislation as a means of adjusting the quantity of cotton available for marketing and of dividing the available market so that each cotton grower receives his fair share.

Marketing quotas have been approved in six referenda since 1938. Marketing quotas on the 1943 crop were called off because of the war. The 1950 acreage allotment has been set at 21,000,000.



And It Pays

# Trucking Is Her Business

*Courier*

ENFIELD, N. C. "Trucking out of this world" is a phrase that could be applied to Mrs. Mary Ward Palmer of Halifax, says D. J. Knight, county agent for the State College Extension Service.

Knight hastens to add, however, that when he uses this expression he is not talking about Mrs. Palmer's dancing, but about her ability as a grower and seller of vegetables.

MRS. PALMER received training as a vegetable grower during World War II, and she has continued her activities along this line. In fact, says Knight, she has almost become a specialist in forcing vegetables to grow "out of season." Each year she sells hundreds of dollars worth of vegetables to stores and homes in Halifax, Weldon and Roanoke Rapids.

According to the county agent, a visit to her place about the middle of November revealed that she had nearly twenty bushels of ripe tomatoes on the vines, as well as fresh lima beans, green peas, pepper and several varieties of salads.

"My success," says Mrs. Palmer, "is due to studying the market and producing and selling my products when everything is scarce. It takes a little more work and a little more money that way, but the system pays," she adds.



# Farmer Doubles Income By Adopting Good Soil Conservation Practices

*Journal and Guide Sept. 15-15-49*

By SHERMAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Oklahoma's top colored conservation farmer for 1949, Herbert J. Owens of Coyle, was really up against it trying to make ends meet before he began carrying out sound soil conservation practices on his 155-acre farm. His story goes back to 1938 and 17 years of tenant farming before that. But Mr. Owens would like to forget the 17 grinding years of tenancy and begin counting from the year the Farmers Home Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture made him a loan and started him on the road to ownership.

However, Mr. Owens' problem didn't end with the farm-ownership loan. His soil was washing and blowing away through the exposure of row-crops on slopes, and his income was barely enough to meet the annual payments on his farm after he had taken care of his production expenses.

## STARTS PROGRAM IN 1941

But in 1941—three years after purchase—upon the advice of his FHA supervisor, he went to his soil conservation district for assistance. A Soil Conservation Service technician was sent to his farm to help him plan a conservation program. A land-use map was drawn for his farm which called for shifting his row crops from the slopes of his bowl-like farm to level areas, and for seeding his slopes to alfalfa. Also, the map called for building additional terraces, repairing the existing ones, and establishing contour cultivation on the slopes.

This new pattern of farming, which resulted in a gradual shift from cotton to a rotation of corn, hay, and small grain for his expanded livestock and poultry program, doubled his income the first year.

By last year, Mr. Owens, who could pay only \$39 as an installment on his farm in 1939, paid the government \$1,655 as the final payment on his place, exactly 31 years ahead of his 40-year repayment schedule.

## BREAKDOWN OF INCOME

A breakdown of his income,

which has averaged \$4,000 during the last three years, shows that he grosses over \$900 off hogs, nearly \$800 off eggs and chickens, about \$700 off certified alfalfa seed, over \$600 off milk, \$700 off beef cattle, and close to \$500 off fruits and vegetables.

District Extension Agent Paul O. Brooks says that Mr. Owens has one of the best balanced farming programs in the States. His farm and home have become a kind of show-place for the colored farm people of central Oklahoma. Three soil conservation field days have been held on his farm.

During these tours, Mrs. Owens shows visitors her storm-cellar which is stocked with home-grown foods. Inside her home, she points to her washing machine, electric iron, refrigerator, and radio—all made possible by their Rural Electrification Administration co-op which supplies them power. Out in the yard, Mr. Owens shows tour groups his electric pump, electric brooder, and the lights in his poultry house.

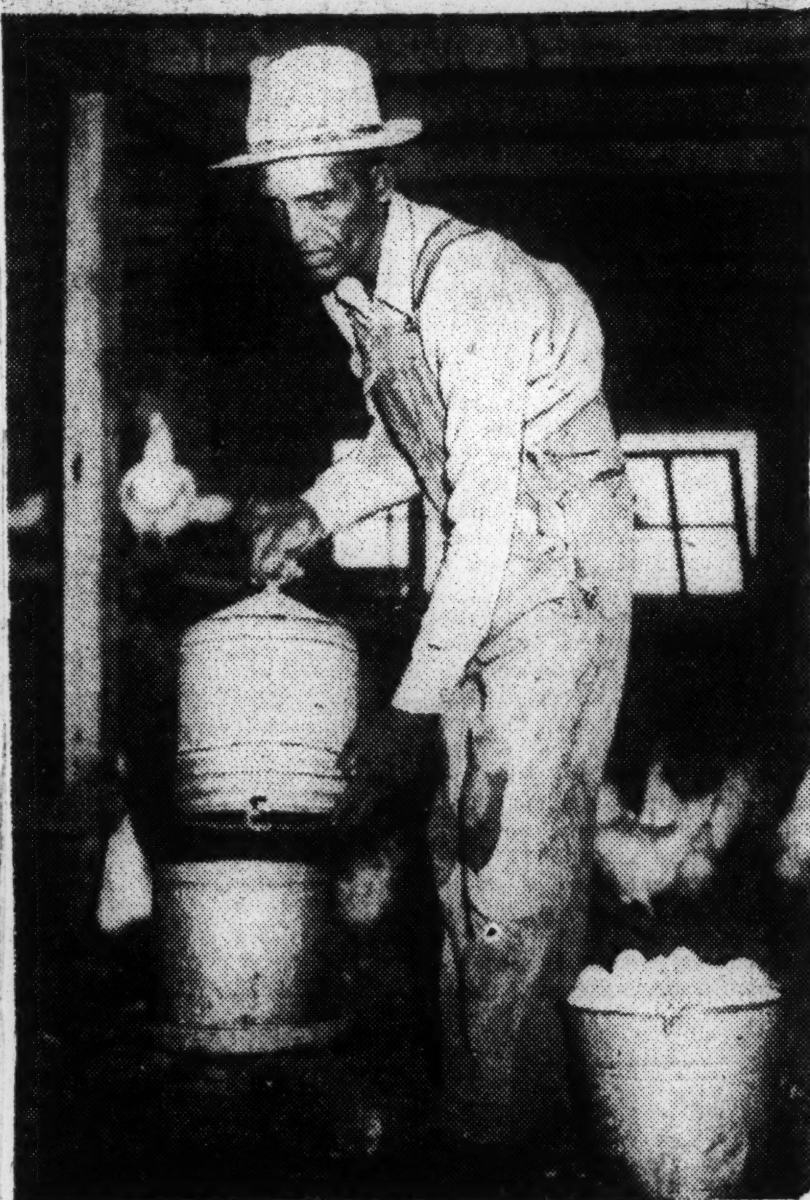
## PROUD OF LAND

But the thing that he takes most pride in is his land. In recognition of his well developed soil conservation program, he was chosen the No. 1 Negro Soil Conservation Farmer in his state this year, and was awarded \$100 at the Log Cabin, Ga., Southwide Soil Conservation Jamboree. Upon his return from Georgia, he was interviewed on a state-wide radio program.

In addition to being a good farmer, Mr. Owens also is a good local minister. In the pulpit, he seldom tells the congregation about the River Jordan and other far away places in the Middle East. Instead, he usually points to the muddy Cimarron River and reminds the people that their land is still washing away. Also, he talks about ways of making rural life better in Central Oklahoma, about increasing farm production, building better rural homes, and growing more of their own food at home.

Some of the members of the church he serves as an assistant pastor say the sermon he practices is about as good as the one he preaches.

## Oklahoma's Top Farmer Makes Good On Eggs



Herbert J. Owens, top soil conservation farmer of Oklahoma, produces poultry and eggs as one of his six cash crops which he has fitted into a balanced farming program. He grossed \$800 off poultry and eggs last year. Income from his birds has enabled him to reduce his row crops and halt erosion on his 155-acre farm at Coyle, Okla.

Mr. Owens was awarded \$100 recently as the No. 1 colored soil conservation farmer of Oklahoma. Mr. Owens is wearing his son's army shirt with six service stripes. He is shown checking his flock's water supply.—(N.S.D.A. Photo)



## FARM STORY

Crops and Production (South Carolina)

# Two Negro farmers shift to food crops, gross \$18,000 annually

ELLOREE, S. C. — Willie B. and Robert Williams, successful farmers here, have shifted to food crops and turned over to tenants most of the cotton acreage on their 350-acre farm, reports the South Carolina State Extension Service.

Until 15 years ago, cotton and corn were all we knew to grow to make money, but still we didn't make any, Willie B. Williams told an Extension Service representative recently. He is senior partner with his nephew, Robert, in their farming enterprise.

"Then," added Williams, "our extension agent explained how truck crops and livestock would increase our income and make it easier for us to take better care of our land."

Today, Williams and his nephew are raising 10 crops for market. They list 30 acres of sweetpotatoes, 20 acres of string beans, 20 of sweet corn, 20 of cotton, 11 of tobacco, 20 of wheat, three each of peas and lima beans, and 110 of corn and oats for their 28 head of beef cattle and 34 head of hogs.

The rest of their land in cultivation — 85 acres of cotton — is handled by five tenant families, who are encouraged to grow side-line crops, too.

The Williamses gross about \$9,000 each annually. Their string bean crop alone brought them nearly \$7,000 this year.

Young Robert Williams is just getting started in farming, picking up where his late father left off. With a high school education and additional training in agriculture at South Carolina State, he is planning to make it his career.

The elder Williams has been farming all his adult life. He started out with 11 acres given him by his parents. Little by little he has added to it until his holdings now total 230 acres.

For him farming has been a way of life which has provided a good living for himself and his family. They live in a comfortable brick home which he and a brother designed and built. He has 11 children — five away and six at home.

"I'd like for one or two of them to remain on the farm and keep it going. Part of this land has been in the family since shortly after the Civil War," said Mr. Williams.

"That's how we did. Two or us boys stayed on the farm; the other three chose other fields of work."

One of Mr. Williams' brothers is state leader of extension work, another is a physician in South Carolina, and the third is executive secretary of the Chicago Urban League.



## Biggest Cotton Producer Lives At Md. Bayou

**MOUND BAYOU, MISS.**—The Nation's biggest cotton producer for the year, 1948, among Negro farm-ers was a resident of the Mississippi delta all Negro town located in the heart of the most fertile cotton land in the world.

Lee Harris leads Negro farmers of the nation with 1200 bales with a gross value around \$150,000, according to information by the Field Service Branch, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Other outstanding Mississippi Negro cotton farmers and the number of bales they produced in 1948 included: Ben Powell, Ingram 510; George Hull, Indianola 500; John Jordon, Greenville 231. Mrs. Odessa West, Hernando 150; William Clark, Hernando 142; Albert Anthony, Crawford 150; Robert Rowe, Hernando 134, Johnnie Buckhalter, Jeff Davis County 100; Sam Green, Vaughn 88; U. S. Polk, Prentiss 89, Tom Valentine, Pheba 74.

goes hand-in-hand with farm ownership.

Dr. Eason said that in five Mississippi counties there were more individual Negro farm owners than white. He listed these as Adams, Madison, Humphreys, Holmes and Issaquena. He said that in Hinds county the ratio of white to Negro farm owners was about 60 to 40.

Dr. Otis urged the farmers to use "brains, skill and hard work" in operating their farms. "Only in this way will you keep ownership of the land," he said.

A prize of one bushel of Dixie 17 hybrid seed corn went to trainee Gholston from Mississippi Federated Co-operatives. The Davis and Luckett seed and feed stores of Jackson provided second and third prizes of hybrid seed corn to Rufus Steward of Smithville with 157 bushels and Earnest Tyson of Byhalia with 152 bushels.

## MISS. NEGRO CORN GROWERS CITED

Best Producer Has Yield of  
205.4 Bushels

(The Times-Picayune Capital Bureau)  
Jackson, Miss., Dec. 9—Negro corn growers from every section of Mississippi were honored during a special corn production rally here Monday.

Every one of the 500 farmers attending the rally had produced 75 bushels or more of corn on at least one acre, with 104 exceeding 100 bushels. Ceremonies were held at Jackson college auditorium.

Highest producer in 1949 was Woodie E. Gholston, veteran farm trainee of Monroe county, with a yield of 205.4 bushels.

Dr. P. H. Eason, state supervisor of Negro schools, and Dr. J. R. Otis, president of Alcorn A. & M. college, addressed the gathering which included over 100 vocational agriculture teachers and veterans instructors.

"You have provided the answer to Mississippi's future economic security in agriculture," Dr. Eason declared. "High production



# N. C. Farmers Reap Added Incomes From Diversity

JACKSON, N. C.—(ANP)— Many Northhampton county farmers are now reaping larger incomes than in the past, and they are doing it from sources other than the traditional cotton and peanut crops of this North Carolina farming community, according to reports of the Farmers Home Administration.

The "better-farming-for-better-living" program of Fate Eason of the Woodland section is a case in point. He is paying for his farm with a 40 year farm ownership loan at 4 percent interest approved by the Farmers Home Administration. Currently his repayment record shows that he is more than \$1700 ahead of schedule and will pay out at this rate before the 40 years.

Last year Eason earned income from six different sources: cotton \$1760; peanuts, \$1200; tobacco, \$367; eggs, \$259 hogs and meat, \$125 and poultry, \$85.

In 1939 this family worked on half shares and according to their estimate their gross annual income was less than \$1,000. In 1940 they were approved by the FHA county committee for a loan to buy a 92nd-acre farm with 54 acres under cultivation. The loan also included funds for new buildings and some farming equipment.

## FARM CONDITION GOOD

Today the farm is in excellent condition, the house and buildings are good and improved farming practices are being closely followed. When the first farm and home plan was developed Eason and his wife began to realize the importance of growing their own food and feed and started selling more livestock for additional income.

This year Fate Eason has added a seventh enterprise. He has planted three acres in hybrid corn and is following recommended practices from which he expects to harvest 75 bushels per acre. He has planted 10 acres of cotton using improved seed. All sources of crop income used last year are being repeated this year and Eason says he expects a larger income at the end of 1949.



# Sharecropper "Slavery" Revealed

## In Henry County Minor Trials

*Tri 5-6-49*  
BY C. W. GREENLEA

McDONOUGH, Ga. — One need go no further than 30 miles from Atlanta to Henry County to observe the workings — or rather, misworkings — of American democracy in Georgia farm areas.

This reporter sat in the Henry County Courthouse at McDonough and witnessed a dozen poor Negroes receive almost obvious "slavery" sentences during a four hour period. With a clock-like precision, and smooth routine, they came before the judge on minor charges and were fined or sentenced. Those accompanied by "their good white folks" were usually tried by a "jury of his peers"; never-the-less, with the same inevitable result: \$100 to \$250 fines plus 12 to 18 months sentences — the sentences being suspended "as long as you work hard and don't get into any more trouble of any kind." As the pattern goes the Negro defendant is given a solemn lecture by the judge. His "boss man", the planter or overseer, may make an impassioned plea on his behalf, telling what a "good boy" his employee is, pays his fine and walks out of court with him.

Thus, the colored man is forced to serve out another year to pay off his obligation to the white planter, receiving little or no cash compensation during the time. He has no choice — he will either work for the county on one of Georgia's infamous chain-gangs (or as the Henry County judge smilingly put it: "We now call it the public works") or he works his time out for the planter.

### MINOR CRIMES

Usually the "crime" is one of public drunkenness, possessing non-tax paid liquor, cursing in the presence of whites, or stealing. The charge of stealing comes up when the cropper is accused of selling some portion of the crop without the knowledge of the planter.

The case of Sims Carter was an unusual one. Carter, it appeared, was a valued worker, industrious, honest, quiet, and even in overalls wore glasses and looked dignified — almost professional. In contrast to the other uneasy, shiftless-looking men, his work clothes were clean and one suspected that he had a good measure of education. The planters literally fought over Carter; one angrily wanting to pun-

ish him for leaving, and the other defending him for moving to the latter's property. As the testimony unfolded it was revealed that planter No. 1 — a blustering, indignant, tobacco-chewing, burly fellow — had accused Carter of moving away from his plantation over a week-end without his knowledge and taking along with him, a bale of cotton, a cord of wood, and leaving a debt of \$41 — a balance which he owed on loans totaling \$299.72.

The share-cropper's new employer had gathered for Carter's defense the white warehouse owner to whom the cotton was sold, the white truck owner who moved Carter's belongings, and it was later learned, there were three of Carter's former employers on the jury! Planter No. 2 even had a lawyer pulled out receipts to show that Carter had paid his debt, but Planter No. 1 swore that they were not in his handwriting. The truck driver swore that he moved no wood, but only house furnishings; then the warehouseman displayed a receipt for half-a-bale of cotton, declaring that the Negro was honest enough to accept only half the money for share-cropping on halves, and left the other half for the white man. He then showed a receipt testifying that the blustering planter had received his half of the money! He also showed a receipt for a carload of peppers brought in by the planter himself. Carter, through his lawyer, declared that he did NOT get his half for the peppers.

The judge, at one interval, asked the planter if he kept written records of his dealings with the cropper. His only record was a book in which he said he made entries each time Carter borrowed money. The jury came back in five minutes and found Sims Carter not guilty of any of the charges! Not once did the colored man take the stand; it was strictly a white man's fight for possession of an "enslaved" Negro. The most powerful planter won.

### NO DETAILED RECORDS

In none of the Negro cases were detailed court records kept. The court clerk merely jotted down the vital statistics and the disposition of each case.

Liberal crusaders should turn some attention to the slave system in the rural South.

Perhaps the most striking example of human exploitation in America can be found in the farmer-

tenant relations in the South. Human rights, as far as Negroes are concerned, and indeed, many poor white share-croppers — are completely disregarded by the powers that be; the white employers-plantation owners and overseers, law enforcement officers, and white people generally. The Negro minority, largely ignorant, is hog-tied in the most vicious and diabolical socio-economic system on the face of the earth.

Two-thirds of the 14,000,000 Negroes in this country live in thirteen southern states; and two-thirds of these live on farms. By and large the colored people are tenants or share-croppers.

As insecure as are Negro urban dwellers in the South, the situation confronting colored farmers is pathetic. President Truman has proposed that Federal Social Security be extended to cover agricultural workers and domestic servants. The bill, naturally, has met with terrific opposition from southern congressmen. If such a law served no other purpose than to force record keeping, open to public inspection and subject to federal prosecution for violations, it may alleviate the present-day slavery evil that exists in the rural south.

**Ex-Sharecropper Buys Farm and Grosses \$8,500**

WASHINGTON, (ANP)—What a little help can mean to a sharecropper who really wants to make go of farming is demonstrated by Rubdel Joe, who now owns a 220-acre farm in Southampton County, Va.

Twelve years ago, Joe, at 19, began farming as a sharecropper. Two years later Farmers Home Administration (then Farm Security Administration) officials looked at his record and approved his application for a loan to buy an eighty-four-acre farm of his own.

By the end of 1947, Joe and his wife had saved up enough to pay off their forty-four-year loan. After paying off the mortgage, they thought of spreading out a little. So, they sold their farm to his brother and purchased a larger

farm—220 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe now own two tractors, a truck, 130 purebred Poland China hogs, milk cows, and a flock of chickens. "Peanuts and hogs are my main cash crops," says Mr. Joe. Last year he grossed \$4,000 off his peanuts and \$4,500 off his hogs.

**DP SHARECROPPERS BROUGHT TO SOUTH**

*The Times*  
**Many in Group of 600 Don't Know What They'll Be Paid**

or How to Run Farms

*new york n. y.*

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW ORLEANS, May 13—A group of more than 600 Lithuanians and Latvians who are destined to become sharecroppers in Mississippi were aboard a displaced persons ship that arrived in New Orleans today. They were among 844 persons aboard the U. S. S. Army transport General Omar Bundy.

The arrival and the future of the sharecroppers-to-be were viewed with some apprehension by the Rev. Joseph B. Koncius of New York, president of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund in America, who is aiding in the resettlement of Lithuanian and Latvian displaced persons.

"I do not know what to make of this sharecropping business. I drove over here from Alabama, where I talked to a priest who was familiar with the displaced persons situation in his state," Father Koncius said.

"He told me that he would almost rather see these people die in their camps in Europe than to have them come to America as sharecroppers. That is his opinion, of course, I don't know whether it is right or not."

### Questioned on Wages

Father Koncius who spent two years in Europe, recently, working with the DP's, and who speaks ten languages, questioned several of the new arrivals at length as to whether they had been told anything about what they would be paid. Everyone he asked answered no.

One man said, "We don't know, but we feel sure that if we do our work the people of America will treat us fairly. They have done much by bringing us to their country."

There were some discrepancies as to the actual occupations of the DP's and the occupations on the list from the International Refugee Organization.

Most of those destined for Mis-

issippi were listed as farmers. When asked, some verified this, while others said they had been factory workers, book binders, electricians and mechanics.

Father Koncius questioned S. L. Davenport, who identified himself as a vice-president of the Delta and Pine Land Company of Scott, Miss., about conditions which await the DP's. The company will get 144 persons.

### To Cut Own Fuel

"We have fixed up houses for these people and are going to furnish them with electricity and water. They will have wood fuel which they will have to cut," Mr. Davenport said.

As to wages, he added, "we will give them the opportunity to work on a share-crop basis or on a day wage. For the first year it will probably be better for them to share-crop. On a day wage basis they would make between \$3 and \$3.50 a day. If they are mechanics or carpenters they will make \$6 or 6.50 a day."

"What about if it rains?" Father Koncius asked. *The Times*  
"We only pay for days worked," Mr. Davenport replied.

"Last year," Mr. Davenport added, "we had 603 Negro families working for us. At the end of the year, after the cotton was sold and their accounts to us paid, we paid those families \$537,000."

This is an average of about \$890 per family.

Others in the group landed to York, which gets 64. New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Ohio, Michigan, California, North Carolina, Connecticut, Minnesota, Maine, Arizona, Arkansas, Tennessee Wisconsin Maryland, Vermont, Texas, South Dakota, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Colorado.



# Sharecropper Reveals 'Slave' Border Story

Jailed, Pregnant

Wife Impounded Over

Contract Charge

NEW YORK—(NNPA)—A South Carolina sharecropper, the father of eleven children, unfolded to reporters here last Wednesday a tale of his sharecropping experiences which bordered on slavery and which resulted in his being placed on a chain gang and his pregnant wife impounded in a South Carolina jail.

Henry Sapp, a sharecropper of Ellington, South Carolina, unfolded the tale at a press conference called by Communist City Councilman Benjamin Davis, whom Sapp has engaged as his counsel. According to Mr. Sapp, this is the story:

After working for Haywood Gettings, a white landowner of Ellington, for six years, Sapp entered into a "half-crop" arrangement with Gettings under the terms of a contract under which Sapp would receive a monthly advance of \$50 which was to be paid to him in food only.

Last May 3, Gettings approached Sapp and demanded that Sapp's two oldest sons work for him on another farm. Sapp refused. Gettings went away angry. The next day the county sheriff and two deputies came to the Sapp farm, arrested Sapp on charges of "disorderly conduct" and "breaking a contract."

SENTENCED TO GANG

Sapp was sentenced to the chain-gang for sixty days without any pretense of a hearing or a trial. While he was serving the sixty-day term, Gettings took Sapp's 1931 Ford off the farm and sold it.

After serving the sixty days, during which time he was beaten by prison officials, Sapp was then taken to jail for a reason yet unknown to him and kept there for two days and one night. He then was released and went back to his farm and worked it for thirty days.

At the end of the thirty days, Gettings refused to pay Sapp, although he had paid the family

while Sapp was on the chain-gang. Sapp moved his family away in the night to the homes of friends and relatives and left Ellington for New York. He did not bring his wife with him because she is pregnant and could not make the trip.

After arriving in New York Sapp received a letter from relatives stating that his wife has been arrested and placed in jail.

FEARS WIFE'S SAFETY

Believing that the jailing of his wife was a reprisal for his "breaking contract" Sapp sought legal counsel of Mr. Davis.

He said he is fearful of his wife's safety and especially since she is pregnant. He also said that he is fearful that she will be intimidated and threatened into signing another "contract" which will bind his sons and the remainder of his family to work for Gettings the rest of their lives.

The South Carolinian said he is anxious to get his wife out of the South Carolina jail and bring her to New York with his children where they will be safe. He asked the Harlem community for a job and a place to stay.

South Carolina

CROP SHIFT PAYS OFF:

## 2 S. C. Farmers Boost Gain to \$9,000 Yearly

WASHINGTON

Willie B. and Robert Williams, successful farmers of Elloree, S.C., who are earning about \$9,000 a year each, have shifted to food crops and turned over to tenants most of the cotton acreage on their 350-acre farm, reports the South Carolina State Extension Service.



Off 20 acres, the Williamses of Elloree, S.C., have harvested 3,500 hampers of beans which brought nearly \$7,000. Left to right are: Willie B. Williams, his brother, E. N. Williams, State extension leader; and their nephew, Robert Williams.

"Until around 15 years ago, cotton and corn were all we knew how to grow to make money, but it still didn't make any," Willie B. Williams told an Extension Service representative recently. He is senior partner with his nephew, Robert, in their farming enterprise.

Added 10 More Crops

"Then," added Mr. Williams, "our Extension agent explained how truck crops and livestock

would increase our income and make it easier for us to take better care of our land." Today Mr. Williams and his nephew are raising 10 crops for market.

They list 30 acres of sweet potatoes, 20 acres of string beans, 20 of sweet corn, 20 of cotton, 11 of tobacco, 20 of wheat, three each of peas and lima beans, and 110 of corn and oats for their 28 head of beef cattle and 34 hogs.

The rest of their land in cultivation — 85 acres of cotton — is

handled by five tenant families. They are encouraged to grow side-line crops, too. And some of them are raising sweet potatoes for market in addition to their gardens, pigs, and chickens for home use.

Willie B. said their string bean crop alone brought them nearly \$7,000 this year. Young Robert Williams is just getting started in farming. With a high school education and additional training in agriculture at South Carolina State college, he is planning to make it his career.

The elder Williams has been farming all his adult life. He started out with 11 acres given him by his parents. Little by little he has added to it until his holdings now total 230 acres. They live in a comfortable brick home which he and a brother designed and built.



1a 1949

South Carolina



**STRING BEANS BROUGHT NEARLY \$7,000**—Renting most of their cotton land to tenants, the Williamses of Ellboro, S.C., have shifted to food crop production. They are shown packing string beans for market. Off 20 acres, they harvested 3,500 hampers of beans which brought nearly \$7,000. Left to right are: Willie B. Williams, his brother E. N. Williams, State leader of Negro Extension work, and their nephew, Robert Williams.—(USDA Photo)



# Truck Farming Brings Up to \$14,000 Annually to Former Tenant in Virginia

*Pittsburgh Courier*  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*  
NANSEMOND, Va. — Truck farming at \$12,000 a year has proved a good business for John S. Everett, 56.

Until fifteen years ago, Mr. Everett was a tenant farmer raising cotton and corn and peanuts on a farm at Southampton, Va. his home community. "But I wasn't getting anywhere," he says.

Then he moved his family to Nansemond, a little community near Suffolk, and began truck farming. Potatoes and corn were his main crops at first, later he added hogs, string beans, peas and soybeans.

Gradually, his income increased. Today, he owns ninety acres and a modern two-story home which was remodeled from an old farm house at a cost of \$4,000.

Asked recently how much he has been averaging during the last few years, Mr. Everett frowned thoughtfully and began by adding up: "About \$2,500 from potatoes, the same from peas, \$2,000 from string beans, \$1,200 from corn, about \$2,500 from hogs, and nearly \$500 from soybeans — oh, close to \$12,000 on an average," he said.

"Of course, my best years, I have done a little better; perhaps as much as \$14,000," he figured.

During part of the war years, Mrs. Everett and three of their ten children operated the farm. One son went off to fight, and Mr. Everett helped to build ships at the Norfolk Navy Yard.

After V-J Day, he returned to his farm and his truck crops. To increase his efficiency, he has bought a potato planter and a digger, and other modern equipment. Two of his sons are home, helping him.

They have a small truck in which they take their products to Suffolk for marketing. "You know," he says, "before the Triple-A and Government-support prices, I sold potatoes some years for as little as 30 cents a bushel. It was awful hard trying to make ends meet then."

During the last few years, he has been receiving better than \$1.50 a bushel for his potatoes.

But farming, to Mr. Everett, means more than raising and

selling crops, buying modern farm equipment, and checking on his bank balance. It also means a comfortable home with electricity, running water, a radio and a telephone; it means educational opportunities for his children, and a fuller life for him and his wife.

They take part in most of the community activities. They work with their county farm and home demonstration agents, James Harris and Miss Hattie S. Powell, in carrying forward the program of their County Agricultural Advisory Board. Mr. Everett is also a member of the executive board of the community hospital.



## MOULTBIE OBSERVER

~~The Constitution~~  
**Tenants Leave the Farms**  
*Atlanta, Ga.*

The percentage of farm tenants is decidedly on the decrease. Georgia has been one of the States that has had too many farm tenants. It was not good for the farm and not good for the tenant. In recent years the tenants have been on the decrease. For about 15 years the number of farms that have tenants on them have decreased.

At the present time it is estimated that 75 percent of the farms in the South are operated by their owners. That would seem to give an average of about 25 percent of the farms operated by tenants. That is far lower than it has been in years past. It is lower than it has been in Georgia for a long time. The census reports of the last 10, 20 or 30 years show that Georgia has had between 50 and 75 percent of her farms operated by tenants. It is not all bad. Fewer tenants may mean that we have a larger percent of those who farm the lands owning the lands where they are farming. We know that some of them have moved out of the territory. Industrial centers have drawn their share of the tenant farmers. Wages have been high and jobs have been plentiful. *Mem. 10-49*

A great many Negroes have moved North, preferring to take their chances with a substantial weekly wage scale rather than the value of half the stuff they would produce on the farm. The high price of labor has figured in another way. It has made it pretty difficult for the tenant farmer, where he didn't have extra labor in the family, to cultivate and harvest the crop that he made. There has been a drop in the percentage of white tenant farmers, maybe occasioned by the Farm Security Administration. *1-10-49*

It is easy to see in Colquitt County that the change in the tenant system is so great that it can be noticed with the natural eye. We have a lot of folks who have been tenants in past years who have bought the farms with Government aid and are finding it a good deal *Mem.*



# OF FARMS and FARMERS

## Family Hikes \$50 Grub-Stake Loan *Chicago, Ill. Independent, Sat. 7-31-49* To \$13,000 Annually In 11 Years

PENOLA, Va. — Starting out 11 years ago with a grub-stake loan of \$50 with which they bought 235 pullets, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey M. Thomas have developed a \$13,000 a year poultry enterprise.

Last year they sold 20,000 dozen hatching eggs from their U. S. certified pullorum clean flock to hatcheries in the state, and hatched 10,000 chicks in their own electric incubators.

The Thomases have six 2,000-bird capacity brooder houses and three large laying houses. They keep a laying flock of 1,400 White Leghorns and New Hampshire Reds which they replace every year with birds from their own hatchery at a savings close to \$700.

### Losses Very Small

Their bird losses seldom exceed one per cent. This is due in large part to their strict sanitary practices and to the vaccination of every chick. Mr. Thomas says that their county agent, J. M. Johnson, has been extremely helpful in giving him pointers on sanitation and in showing him how to vaccinate the birds.

The task of feeding, watering, and caring for their laying flock and baby chicks is made easier, say the Thomases, through the use of electricity provided by the Virginia Electric Cooperative of Bowling Green, a Rural Electrification Administration financed co-op.

The Thomases have an electric pump which automatically supplies water to each poultry house. During the Winter the water is automatically warmed. Also, the lights in each laying house are controlled by an automatic time clock. And the Thomases find that their electric egg cleaner really saves work.

### Modernly Equipped Home

Aided by these electric devices and their 14-year-old son who helps after school and during the Summers, the Thomases are able to do all their own work.

Electricity in the home makes Mrs. Thomas' household chores easier, too, giving her more time for leisure and for helping with the chickens. She has an electric

washing machine, vacuum cleaner, iron, refrigerator, hot water heater, and a modern electric range.

The Thomases live in a neat and attractive two-story home which is surrounded by shubbery and beautiful flowers.

Mr. Thomas is a member of the State and National Poultry Association and attends the conventions. "I get new ideas at these conventions," he says. When he returned from the 1947 meeting, he had his first incubator; after last year's meeting, he bought an electric egg cleaner.



**\$20,000 A-YEAR PEANUT GROWER** — Arthur R. Glover, right, of Smithfield, Va., shows County Agent Woodrow Odum a sack of choice peanuts from this year's harvest. They are seated on Mr. Glover's peanut picker. He grosses close to \$20,000 annually off peanuts, soybeans, and hogs. Mr. Glover sells his hogs to Smithfield packers who process the popular Smithfield hams. (USDA Photo)

## \$20,000-A-Year Peanut Grower *Atlanta, Ga. Daily World* Says Farming Is Good Business

WASHINGTON — "I am a farmer because I find it's a good business," says Arthur R. Glover, who grosses close to \$20,000 a year on his 41-acre farm near Smithfield, Va. Glover was reared on a farm, but found the long hours and low pay on his father's one-crop farm very distasteful. So, he struck out for the city where he worked at odd jobs, cooked in a restaurant, and fired boilers at a cement factory. "But I was not getting anywhere," says Mr. Glover, who is now 52.

In 1940, he returned to Smithfield to lay his hand at farming on his own. He and Mr. Glover and their four sons started out as tenants on 50 acres. Today they own 224 acres which cost them \$12,000, and they

rent an additional \$0. "We owe a lot to Mr. Odum, our county agent, says Mr. Glover. He helps us plan our farm program, and his demonstrations on inoculating pigs against cholera enabled us to save our big crop a couple of years ago when cholera was bad. The Glovers have a modern, highly mechanized farm, they own two tractors and an assortment of attachments, a peanut picker, a corn picker, a feed grinder, and a mowing machine.

Their principal crops are peanuts, soybeans, corn and hogs. They sell about 75 hogs a year to Smithfield packers.

One of their four sons is a member of the 4-H club. They hope he will stay on the farm and take over when he grows up.



# OF FARMS and FARMERS

## Family Hikes \$50 Grub-Stake Loan *helped but 7-30-44 changed -* To \$13,000 Annually In 11 Years

PENOLA, Va. — Starting out 11 years ago with a grub-stake loan of \$50 with which they bought 235 pullets, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey M. Thomas have developed a \$13,000 a year poultry enterprise.

Last year they sold 20,000 dozen hatching eggs from their U. S. certified pullorum clean flock to hatcheries in the state, and hatched 10,000 chicks in their own electric incubator.

The Thomases have six 2,000-bird capacity brooder houses and three large laying houses. They keep a laying flock of 1,400 White Leghorns and New Hampshire Reds which they replace every year with birds from their own hatchery at a savings close to \$700.

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*Woodrow Odom, part of his 150-head hog crop.*  
**HOGS FOR SMITHFIELD HAMS** — John W. Woodrow Odom, part of his 150-head hog crop. His other crops are corn, peanuts, and soybeans.

Robert, in left photos, shows County Agent Mr. Roberts sells hogs to Smithfield, Va., packers. At right Odom tests one of hams. — (USDA)

## **\$50. Grub-Stake Loan Starts Farm Family On Road To \$13,000 Income**

WASHINGTON—Starting out 11 years ago with a grub-stake loan of \$50 with which they bought 235 pullets, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey M. Thomas of Penola, Va., have developed a \$13,000-a-year poultry enterprise.

Last year they sold 20,000 dozen hatching eggs from their U. S. certified pullorum clean flock to hatcheries in the State, and hatched 10,000 chicks in their own electric incubators.

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# Former Cafe Cook Turns To Farming

## Nets \$20,000 Yr. Growing Peanuts

SMITHFIELD, Va. — "I am a farmer because I find it's a good business," says Arthur R. Glover who grosses close to \$20,000 a year on his 314-acre farm near here.

Mr. Glover was reared on a farm, but found the long hours and low pay on his father's one-crop farm very distasteful. So, he struck out for the city, where he worked at odd jobs, cooked in a restaurant, and fired boilers at a cement factory. "But I wasn't getting anywhere," says Mr. Glover, who is now 52.

In 1940, he returned to Smithfield to try his hand at farming on his own. He and Mrs. Glover and their four sons started out as tenants on 50 acres. Today they own 224 acres, which cost them \$12,000, and they rent an additional 90.

### "We Owe A Lot"

"We owe a lot to Mr. Odom, our county agent, says Mr. Glover. He helps us plan our farm program and his demonstrations on inoculating pigs against cholera enabled us to save our pig crop a couple of years ago when cholera was bad."

The Glovers have a modern highly mechanized farm; they own two tractors and an assortment of attachments, a peanut picker, a corn picker, a feed grinder and a mowing machine.

Their principal crops are peanuts, soybeans, corn and hogs. They sell about 75 hogs a year to Smithfield packers.

One of their four sons is a member of the 4-H club. They hope he will stay on the farm and take over when he grows up.



FARMER ARTHUR R. GLOVER (right) of Smithfield, Va., shows County Agent Woodrow Odom, sack of choice goobers from this year's crop. Glover grosses nearly \$20,000 yearly on peanuts, soybeans and hogs for Smithfield hams. He and Agriculture Department agent Odom are seated on Glover's peanut picker.—USDA photo.







His gross income averages more than \$1,000 a month. Anxious to help others get started in dairying, he holds dairy school every year for prospective young dairy farmers.

Among the top 4-H'ers of the year are John Wallace and Phillip Jones of Maryland, Milton J. L. Spight of Tennessee, and Willie Brown of Arkansas. Both Maryland 4-H'ers are pioneering in new crops for their communities. Last year, Wallace grossed \$500 off a flock of USDA small white turkeys, the breed developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture research center at Beltsville, Md.

Young Jones of Huntingtown, Md., is supplementing his tobacco project with a herd of sheep. Last year, he purchased a purebred Hampshire ram in order to improve his herd and aid his neighbors in starting herds.

#### IN TENNESSEE

Four-H'er Spight of Middleton, Tenn., has bought and paid for a ninety-five-acre farm by carrying out sound farming practices. On this farm, he supports his mother and his younger sister and brother. This interrupted his education, but at twenty, he is back in school and will complete his high school work next year.

From an income point of view, young Brown of Marianna, Ark., has set the 4-H record of the year by grossing \$1,745 from corn, cotton, and livestock.

Other farmers and 4-H'ers named by the Extension leaders are Jerry Thomas and O'Neal Wilhite, 4-H'ers of Gallion and Moulton, Ala., respectively; Moses Medley, farmer of Helena, Ark.; J. M. Knight, farmer of Dublin, Ga.; and Clayton Marcus and Preston Jackson, 4-H'ers of Camilla and Madison, Ga., respectively; Joe Willie Carter, farmer of Fayette County, Ky.; David T. Brooks and Harold Marbury of Upper Marlboro and Flinwick, Md., respectively; Clarence and James Harris, 4-H'ers of Lucy, Tenn.; S. C. Blair, 4-H'er of Montgomery County, Tenn., and T. O. Crew, farmer of Stanton, Tenn.

## Colored Farmer Switches To Truck Crop, Grosses \$12,000

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Truck farming at \$12,000 a year has proved a good business for John S. Everett, 56, of Nansemond, Va.

Until 15 years ago, Mr. Everett was a tenant farmer, raising cotton and corn and few peanuts on a farm at Southampton, Va., his home community. "But I wasn't getting anywhere," he says.

Then he moved his family to Nansemond, a little community near Suffolk, and began truck farming. Potatoes and corn were his main crops at first, later he added hogs, string beans, peas, and soybeans.

Gradually, his income increased. Today, he owns 90 acres and a modern two-story home which was remodeled from an old farm house at the cost of \$4,000.

Asked recently how much he has been averaging during the last few years, Mr. Everett frowned thoughtfully and began adding up: "About \$2,500 from potatoes, the same from peas, \$2,000 from string beans, \$1,200 from corn, about \$2,500 from hogs, and nearly \$500 from soybeans—oh, close to \$12,000 on an average," he said.

"Of course, my best years, I have done a little better; perhaps as much as \$14,000," he figured.

During part of the war years, Mrs. Everett and three of their 10 children operated the farm. One son went off to fight, and Mr. Everett helped to build ships at the Norfolk Navy Yard.

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They have a small truck in which they take their products to Suffolk for marketing. "You know," he says, "before the Triple-A and Government support prices, I sold potatoes some years for as little as 30 cents a bushel. It was awful hard trying to make ends meet then." During the last few years, he has been receiving better than \$1.50 a bushel for his potatoes.

But farming, to Mr. Everett, means more than raising and selling crops, buying modern farm equipment, and checking on his bank balance. It also means a comfortable home with electricity, running water, a radio, and a telephone; it means educational opportunities for his children, and a fuller life for him and his wife.

They take part in most of the community activities. They work with their county farm and home demonstration agents, James Harris, and Miss Hattie S. Powell, in carrying forward the program of

their County Agricultural Advisory Board. Mr. Everett is also a member of the executive board of the community hospital.

He thinks farming is a good life, if one plans and studies the crops best adapted to his land in terms of the products which bring good returns in his local marketing area. Mr. Everett leans heavily on his county agricultural agent for help with insecticides, marketing problems, and the conservation of his soil.

### Three More Tours Planned—

## 100 Negro Farmers Observe Latest Methods Of Farming

By FOSTER HALEY

More than 100 progressive Negro farmers yesterday toured the outstanding Negro farms in south Montgomery County to see "how much they know—or ought to know—about good farming."

They were accompanied on the 90-mile educational trip by both white and Negro farm leaders.

Moving pictures were made all along the route by County Agent Lem Edmonson; he took shots of everything from fishing pond scenes to peanut crops. They will be shown later in various communities.

Main points of interest visited were:

Smiley's five-acre fish pond, at the Lillian Dabney School; the high-type farm home of W. J. White, near LeGrand; the home, farm and work shop of Charles Bell, Johnvv Bell and Joan Bell, all of Little Zion Community.

The house furnishings, water system and home of Sylvester Moore, McCants community; the excellent stands of corn and cotton on the Henry Givens farms; the gardening and food preservation projects on the Caesar Moore place near Pine Level.

The projects at the places of Thomas Moore and Levi Pickett, Macedonia; and the fine cotton and corn stands on the Will Ford farm, Macedonia.

#### Tour Value Praised

"I think more of a tour to help put over good farming practices than anything else I know of," Edmonson said. "This way, each one of you can see what the others are doing."

T. Alexander, Negro county agent for Montgomery County, agreed with Edmonson, and added: "We trust that we are hitting the sore spot with the proper treatment . . . and that we learn a little from each farm visited." A second tour will be made

Virgil Harden, a Montgomery County soil conservationist, told the farmers they needed "to go one step further in conservation. You're planting on the contours, etc.," he said, "but you should also be planting Winter cover crops."

W. E. Elsberry, Montgomery County supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration, spoke of the benefit that Negro farmers are receiving from the "thousands of dollars lent them by the federal government, plus the thousands spent on experiment stations."

W. R. Turnipseed, assistant to Elsberry, also praised the value of tours to Montgomery County agriculture.

Other Negro representatives speaking before the group were:

A. M. Boynton, home demonstration agent for Montgomery County; Ernestine Stevens, home management supervisor; L. A. Locklair, James A. Roberts, both veterans teachers; R. H. Richardson, veterans teacher from Waugh; C. A. Williams, district agent from Tuskegee Institute; R. S. Rivers, district agent, Tuskegee Institute. Daniel Chapman, veterans teacher from Montgomery, also aided in the program.

July 20 is Derby Day

**Dick Campbell**  
*Conductor*  
**Produces N. C. Farm Pageant**  
*Sittough Jr.*

GREENSBORO, N. C. — Dick Campbell, concert manager who produced USO shows during the war, last week presided over the pageant, "We're Staying Here," which he wrote, staged and produced for the North Carolina State convention of the New Farmers of America which met at A. and T. College.

Castling 350 youths, aged 14 to 25, who represented thirty-six different communities in the State, the pageant drew much praise from S. B. Simmons, State supervisor of Vocational Agricultural Education in Negro schools of North Carolina, who had commissioned the project. Fred Carter, New York actor, assisted Campbell in the show, and played the leading role.

Friday in the Madison Park Community. The beginning point will be at Southern Dairies on the Gray Highway, U. S. 231, five miles south of Montgomery at 9:30 a.m.

A third tour, also of Negro farms, will be conducted in the Mount Meigs and Waugh communities July 22.

#### Explains Procedure

At each farm or home yesterday the farmer explained to the gathering how he made his particular crop or home an outstanding one. The county agents, and other farm, conservation and homemaking experts added their plugs too; and then suggested improvements.

What received the most praise?

1. Farms, bought and paid for, or nearly so; sometimes with Federal Home Administration financing, often not.
2. Excellent crop-stands on once-worn-out land.
3. The "fine co-operation" most farmers have shown in working with county agents, extension workers, conservationists, home demonstration agents, veterans teachers, etc.
4. Home improvement and construction, many with running water, landscaping, electric lights and refrigerators, and other modern improvements.

#### Improvements Needed

Improvements suggested? County Agent Edmonson stressed "high fertilization" of pastures and row crops, and use of "winter legumes," turned under. "We're trying to make two blades of grass and three grains of corn grow where one did before," he added.

Negro County Agent Alexander said, the way to raise 100 bushels of corn to the acre is "fertilization and thick (close) spacing." He indicated that Montgomery County land is capable of such production, provided a farmer follows fully the recommendations of farm experts.



# Experts Pick Best Farmer In Alabama

## Folsom Asks State To Back Truman Agricultural Policy

By GEOFFREY BIRT

OPELIKA, ALA., Dec. 5.—Gov. James E. Folsom today called for closer association of all Alabama farm leaders with President Truman's agricultural policy. The governor made this plea in an interview here during one of which took place in the Lee County courthouse.

Folsom had been expected to make a major farm speech. Advance reports had indicated that the chief executive, just returned from the big Jackson Day dinner in New York which was addressed by Vice-President Alben Barkley, would endorse the

Following the introduction of a soil conservation plan for his farm in 1942, Lynum consistently improved badly run-down lands into productive acreage.

Corn yield was increased from 10 to 40 bushels per acre and he grows three-fourths of a bale of cotton to the acre. His cattle and hogs thrive on legumes and peanuts.

Lynum also serves as a training officer for the Veterans Administration and is now teaching a group of young war veterans agriculture in the Manila vicinity.

His trip to the Log Cabin jamboree is being sponsored by the Grove Hill chamber of commerce.

Observers here at once interpreted this statement as forecasting renewed opposition by the governor to the Alabama Extension Service which, with other leading farm interests in Alabama and elsewhere, has opposed the Brannan plan as impractical and socialistic.

W. H. (Bill) Drinkard of the State Pardon and Paroles Board used the session to defend the action of his group. He declared that paroles were not being granted to prisoners who were "vicious, dangerous or habitual criminals, sex fiends or dope heads."

Rather, "they are being issued to help the individual, his family and indirectly the taxpayers through reducing costs."

Drinkard agreed that the Folsom-dominated board has stepped up the parole rate considerably over last year, and "rightly so."

"A great many of those released were ex-GI's who had a perfect record and were first offenders. More than 50 per cent of them were Negroes. This is true because more than 50 per

cent of all prisoners are Negroes."

Seats were plentiful in the Lee County courthouse here for those wanting to hear and see Folsom and his cabinet. With the governor were more than 40 appointees, state executives and political associates. Awaiting them was an audience of 79 whites and 11 Negroes. Folsom has never been popular in Lee County. It is believed here that the smallness of the crowd and lack of enthusiasm in the district dissipated the governor and caused him to switch signals and make his farm speech to a larger and more receptive audience.

There was also another switch in the Lee County proceedings. Unlike any of the previous four regional cabinet meetings, there was no public forum on the program. In past meetings questions have been from the floor when the scheduled speakers have finished. Today's meeting, however, was hastily adjourned immediately after the last speaker, Judge John Snodgrass, Scottsboro, had ended his speech. Snodgrass discussed the general work of the Folsom administration; Sen. Rankin Fite, Marion County, Folsom Senate floor leader, spoke in favor of the one-senator-per-county plan, and Frank Boswell, state prison director, explained the working of the prison department.



## Ala. Farmers Make Wheat

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Finding part of their land unsuitable for cotton production, but excellent for wheat, six Negro Alabama farmers have begun producing their own flour, according to Dr. J. R. Otis, Negro state leader of extension work. *Montgomery Advertiser* Jan. 15-49

## 5 Ala. Farmers Set New Records

*Pittsburgh Courier* Jan. 3-26-49  
TUSKEGEE, Ala. — Five Alabama

colored farmers set State records for their group last year by producing over 100 bushels of corn per acre, reports Dr. J. R. Otis, State extension leader in charge of Negroes.

In recognition of their achievement, Tuskegee Institute has presented them certificates of award. The five farmers are Robert Ellis, who topped the group with 106 bushels per acre; John C. Belle, Peter Brown, Ollie Ellis and James Eason.

Their accomplishment is the outcome of a State-wide contest which stimulated increased corn yields in most of the Counties of Alabama. The average yield obtained by the contestants was 59.49 bushels per acre. The average yield of all farmers in the State is less than twenty bushels per acre.

## Negro Stock

## Show Opens

*Montgomery Advertiser*  
Record Number Entered

From Twenty-Four

Counties

*Montgomery Advertiser*  
(See pictures Page 8-B)

A record number of entries was registered yesterday for the fifth annual Montgomery Negro Fat Stock Show and Sale opening today.

Judging is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. today and the two-day event will close with a sale Friday.

24 Counties

Calves and hogs are entered from 24 counties:

Autauga, Butler, Conecuh, Crenshaw, Elmore, Lowndes, Macon, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Wilcox, Tuscaloosa, Lee, Jefferson, Houston, Chambers, Henry, Hale, Barbour, Bullock, Coosa and Clay. Glen Stebbins, show chairman, said he expects 147 calves and 263 hogs for the show.

The fat market hog show is the

first held here for Negro boys and girls. *Montgomery Advertiser* Jan. 4-7-49

## 113 Individual Entries

The 263 hogs entered include 113 individual entries, 10 pens of three hogs and 12 lots of ten hogs. Calves at the show will include Aberdeen Angus, Hereford, Short-horns and Brahmans.

Dr. J. R. Otis, Tuskegee Institute, is superintendent of the show, and A. Floyd, Tuskegee Institute, is assistant superintendent.

## Dr. Cooper To Judge

Dr. G. W. Cooper, professor of veterinary medicine and clinics at Tuskegee Institute, will be the judge.

The show will include eight classes in the junior beef cattle division and one in the adult beef cattle division. The junior fat market hog division will include four classes and the adult fat hog division will include two classes.

Class "A" for junior beef cattle will be in their divisions for heavyweight, middleweight and lightweight Aberdeen Angus steers of heifers. Class "B" will have the same divisions for Herefords and Class "C" will be for Shorthorns. An additional class is planned for Brahman entries.

There will be 15 premiums ranging from \$10 to \$1 in each division. The champion in each class will receive \$15 cash and the reserve champion will receive \$5.

## Ala. A. and M. Is Host

## Scientific Farm Clinic Draws 800

*Pittsburgh Courier*  
(Special to The Courier)

NORMAL, Ala. — Six hundred farmers and 200 rural youth from eight North Alabama counties and Lincoln County, Tenn. were in attendance at the fortieth annual Farmers' Conference, the biggest ever held at Alabama A. and M. College, Friday of last week.

Farm women winning prizes in related how employment of similar skills had resulted in tremendous increases in cotton production on their farms.

Four of the five had grown or gathered more than 100 bales in 1948, and one had picked 256 bales from 300 acres planted.

At the livestock exhibition on the college farm the desirability of using purebred sires to breed stock was impressed upon visiting farmers. The college director of agriculture told of recent purchases by the college of purebred foundation stock.

## IMPROVEMENTS TOLD

At the men's session J. E. T. Spills of Lauderdale County told of proper cultivation and skillful use of fertilizer had enabled him to produce 102.2 bushels of corn on one acre. Five farmers

these hens owned by the college

had laid an egg a day for the past thirty-one days. Two cockerels of the Hanson strain of Leghorns have been added to the poultry flock.

## PRIZES AWARDED

Farmers from several counties competed for prizes in the corn exhibit section. For producing the most perfect ears of corn, two Madison County farmers won first and second prizes. They were Frank Jacobs and Joe E. Jasper, respectively. And C. A. Jarman of Colbert County was third prize winner. *Montgomery Advertiser* Jan. 2-26-49

The Rev. Ernest T. Dixon of Tuskegee spoke at the afternoon session in the college auditorium. A set of resolutions, designed to aid in improving life in the rural community, was drawn up by a committee.

The resolutions embraced responsibilities of such institutions as the church, home and family, rural youth, the college, and pointed to the part education and soil conservation can and should play in the rural community.

## Establish 21 Ala. Cheese Plants

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. — (ANP) — C. G. Leslie, county agent, reported last week that the establishment of a new cheese plant in Lauderdale County has increased the number of farmers in his county from two to twenty-one since Feb. 1.

Leslie pointed out he, along with field representatives of the cheese company, sold the farmers on the theory that a profit could be obtained from the lush green pastures in their area through the production of milk. Some of them already had cows and others

## Negro Farmers Making Steady Progress Here

## Many Operate Profitable Farms, Own Homes;

## Modern Methods Used

## Soil Is Improved

## County Agents Are Busy

## Trying To Get Others To Improve Their Land

*Montgomery Advertiser*  
By FOSTER HALEY  
Jan. 7-17-49

This isn't a rags-to-riches tale, but it'll do. The part about the

rags is entirely true, the other a little true.

It's about fat chickens and bathrooms, barbecue pits and sleek furniture, washing machines and lush gardens . . . and paid-for homes with three bedrooms.

It's about kitchen sinks and beef cattle, gas cooking and tall corn . . . and venetian blinds.

It's about the Negro farmers here in Montgomery County, and the remarkable story of their amazing progress.

Ten years ago most of them were as poor as Job's scrawniest turkey. It was a case of plodding poverty, blighting hardship and an endless flood of debts.

They were "hungry and naked." And the soil was so poor that the scarecrows starved to death.

## New Life Today

Today new life is surging through hundreds of these Negro farms.

You can see for yourself: Visit their farms near Grady and Macedonia and Little Zion

communities; or Madison Park, Bamer, Mount Meigs, Hickory Bend, or elsewhere. On every hand you see astonishing evidence of intelligent management, diligence and signity. Give us a solidly built, straight-forward farmer of about 35. He and his small family tend 120 acres near the East Grady Negro

Beauchamp, an older man who took pride because of it. The W. J. Whites live in a modern home on the Luverne highway one mile south of LeGrand. It's almost paid for. Nine years ago they bought the place with a government loan. They have 137 acres and four farm buildings. Not long ago their young son painted all four buildings at a total cost of \$2.50.

Special Projects Their crops this year are so good that they were selected as special projects for other Negro farmers to visit "for inspiration."

A dozen or two other projects, all over the county, were also chosen; and this week more than 100 Negro farmers made a 90-

oil and oxide

The paint was a simple mix-



ture of crankcase oil and an oxide. It is a dull red color. It's hardly fireproof, but in case of fire the buildings would burn almost as rapidly as if unpainted.

Down near Little Zion community the Bell family has "a most outstanding livestock farm." The first Bell started with 60 acres a number of years ago; since then, the children have run it up to 300 acres, a blacksmith shop, and a modern home complete with venetian blinds.

Over near Mount Meigs, the Lucas home has a new electric stove in a thoroughly modern kitchen.

The Campbells, at Waugh, heat their home and cook with gas. They have a bathroom, ice box, and other modern conveniences.

Why this sudden spurt of prosperity?

#### Hard Work Leads

A bunch of reasons: Hard work for one.

The Negroes themselves have done considerable lifting-by their own bootstraps.

For 32 years, Lem Edmonson, the white Montgomery County farm agent, has worked with both white and Negro farmers. He has taught, preached, persuaded and tried everything in the book . . . including about a million dollars' worth of psychology . . . to see everybody on good farming practices.

Back in depression days he held from 35 to 50 meetings a week, trying his level best to put over modern farming doctrines.

#### Agent Active

For 18 years, the Negro county agent here, J. T. Alexander has also exerted tremendous efforts. He, too, has constantly worked with Negro farmers, plugging for modern farming. He has even designed houses for them. And in the homes, Home Demonstration Agent A. M. Boynton has worked overtime on home-improvement projects of every description.

The results of all this progressive work are everywhere. The county as a whole has felt it; for every time the economic status of a person is raised, the county is better off.

But all is not Utopia. There are still thousands of Negro—and white—farmers who have not yet seen the progressive light.

There are still thousands farming by antiquated methods, without much fertilizer, without cover crops, without crop rotation . . . and without the abundant free information about their business that any county agent will tell them; in fact, will almost beat them over the head to tell them.



**HIGH COTTON AND TALL CORN**—Will Ford (center) showing his crops to the men who told him how to do it—scientifically. Ford is rapidly moving toward his dream—a bale of cotton and 100 bushels of corn to the acre. Left is J. T. Alexander, Negro county agent, and right is Lem A. Edmonson white agent for Montgomery County.

## Progressive Negro Farm Tour Series Pronounced 'Success'

The last in a series of tours of progressive Negro farms in Montgomery County was completed Friday and the whole venture was pronounced a success by E. W. Elsberry, county supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration.

Over a dozen farms were visited by 85 persons, mostly Negro farmers. About 30 farms have been visited on three tours; each farm was selected as a special example of modern farm management.

The tours were arranged by Elsberry and W. R. Turnipseed, assistant county supervisor of FHA.

Those making the trip yesterday included:

Annie Mae Boynton, Negro Home Demonstration Agent for Montgomery County; Ernestine Stevens, Negro Home Management supervisor; R. T. Thurston, Negro County Agent for Macon County; two Negro Veterans' Teachers, R. H. Richardson and Scott, both from Waugh; and Elsberry and Turnipseed.

#### Special Project Seen

Farms visited yesterday, and the special projects examined, were those of:

O. L. Pinkston, 10 miles east of Montgomery, hybrid corn, and modern home improvement projects including cooking and heating with gas.

Charles Brown, same neighbor-

hood, excellent cotton crop that "will make one-and-a-half bales to the acre if the weevils can be controlled."

Hayward Smothers, Mount Meigs, well-fruited cotton that "shows the value of early (April) planting."

Henrietta Lucas, Mount Meigs, modern kitchen completed mainly by her two daughters who are former members of the 4-H club.

#### Recommendation Executed

Connie Parker, home and grounds well developed; crops show that experiment station recommendations are being carried out.

The Campbell place at Waugh, modern home, ice box, bath.

Gus Langford, Waugh, good cotton, considering the poor weather.

H. Baxter, Hickory Bend, who bought his place under the tenant-purchase (Bankhead-Jon's) act; a year 'round garden.

Aaron Brassell, Hickory Bend, a demonstration of painting a farm building with a simple paint made of old crankcase oil and a red oxide.

Horace Phillips, Hickory Bend, "75-bushels-to-the-acre corn, if the rain lets up."

Sylvester Phillips, Hickory Bend, beef cattle and a modern home.

Joe Urquhart, Hickory Bend, corn "that will make 50-60 bushels to the acre, and bale-to-the-acre cotton, if the weather is good."

T. C. Ellis, Hickory Bend, one

of the three former tenant farmers who have paid for their farms since 1940. Fifteen others in the neighborhood are buying their places now, and most are ahead on their payments, according to Elsberry.



# Negroes Show Quality Cows

*9-30-49*  
Youthful Black Belters

Are Awarded \$1,500

At Uniontown

By GERALD J. McALLISTER  
Advertiser Staff Editor

UNIONTOWN, ALA., Sept. 29

The Black Belt's all-Negro Dairy Show—the Southeast's largest—today was a magnificent pay-off for cooperation.

Junior exhibitors from five counties—Perry, Sumter, Marengo, Dallas and Hale—brought 108 fine grade calves into the show ring at the ballpark here. And the winners took away \$1,500 in cash prizes and added incentive to boost dairying.

## 2,500 Attended

The show attracted a crowd of 2,500 persons, including Alabama's top agriculture leaders. Extension Service Director P. O. Davis praised the quality of the animals.

"They'll put money in the bank for you and give your families home comforts and an education," he told Negro farmers.

Milton Walker, show superintendent and president of Planters and Merchants Bank, said the area was gratified over the progress their Negro farmers have made.

## Produce 90 Per Cent

Oscar Cobb, prominent Perry planter, said that Negro dairymen now produce 90 per cent of the grade B milk used in the milk plant here. Cobb served as ring superintendent at the show.

Willie Johnson, 4-H member from Sumter County, walked off with top honors. His junior yearling heifer was named grand champion of the show and Johnson also won the showmanship award.

Reserve champion, age-cow, was shown by Jerry Coleman, a NFA member from Marengo County.

Class winners were: Junior heifers, Grace Carter, Perry 4-H member; senior heifers, no blue ribbon awards; junior yearling heifers, Willie Johnson, Sumter; senior yearling heifers, Willie Thomas, Marengo 4-H member; two-year-old cows, Kenneth Ma-

son, Perry 4-H member; age cows, Jerry Coleman.

## Marengo Wins

Marengo County's entry won the county contest. In the judging competition, the Dallas 4-H group and the Sumter NFA group were victors.

W. B. Hill, state leader for Negro work, said the show exceeded expectations, said the quality of the animals showed a vast improvement over previous shows. "Some of the animals could enter shows anywhere in the state," Nunn said.

## Cammack Attends

Guests at the event included R. E. Cammack, director of vocational education; Ed Moreno, director of the agriculture division of the State Chamber of Commerce; Aubrey Fleming, Agriculture Center Board; J. D. (Duck) Samford, district extension agent; and Black Belt business and agriculture leaders.

Funds for the show were contributed by Black Belt merchants and the Agriculture Center Board.

Walker is hopeful that the next show will be held in a new coliseum. Construction work is scheduled to start soon.

## Alabama

## Black Belt's All-Negro Dairy Show



# 1st Midstate Farm Home Loan Goes To Young Chilton Couple

By BURNS BENNETT

Advertiser State Editor

CLANTON, ALA., Dec. 21—A tall, soft-spoken Chilton County farmer-veteran, and his shy, blonde wife, have proof that Uncle Sam believes that "better farm homes make better farmers."

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Donovan, youthful newlyweds of Route 2, Maplesville, today received a government check for \$4,500, the first Central Alabama federal farm housing loan.

Donovan, 25, and a combat veteran of 12 months in the Philippines, received the check in ceremonies at the Chilton county courthouse. An overflow crowd packed the 400-capacity courtroom and jammed into the street outside where a public address system

The presentation was made by Julian Brown, Montgomery state director of the Federal Home Administration.

DeGraffenreid Is Speaker

Rep. Ed deGraffenreid, Tuscaloosa, who supported the farm housing loan in Congress, was principal speaker at the service sponsored by the Clanton Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis and Lions clubs.

Donovan, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Donovan, of Maplesville, will begin construction of his house immediately on the 80-acre farm tract which was originally homesteaded by his grandfather it.

back in the 1880s. The original government deed was used in closing out the loan.

In turning the check over to Donovan, Brown said the farm housing program would not cost the taxpayers a penny. He said the U. S. Treasury would get back dollar-for-dollar, and that a four per cent interest charge will carry administrative costs.

Brown asserted previous government farm ownership programs had proven profitable to the government in Alabama, with most being paid out far ahead of schedule.

DeGraffenreid declared that such programs as that of the Farmers Home Administration "meet the demands of the people that the government be operated for their benefit."

Farm organization leaders, veterans service group representatives, VA spokesmen, and state and county political leaders took part in the program.

## Legion and VFW Cooperate

Jack Lawrence, head of the Chilton County VFW, introduced Buster K. Bell, immediate past commander of the State VFW, who spoke briefly.

Another speaker was Arch Ferrell, Phenix City, state Legion Department head. He was introduced by Raymond Mims, commander of the Chilton post.

John P. Knight, Montgomery, director of the state department of veterans affairs also spoke.

Other speakers were O. C. Medlock, Auburn, State Soil Conservation Service Director; Harley A. Smith, Montgomery, regional VA Manager, and James Dailey, Montgomery, of the State Department Of Education.

Joe Murphree is Chilton County supervisor for the FHA. Murphree, with Dave Tingle, head of the Veterans' Training Program here, and Howard Mims, Donovans' instructor, helped him arrange the loan, which took only five weeks.

The Rev. W. B. Atkinson, of the Clanton First Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Prior to the ceremony, the Chilton County FFA Band, composed of Robert Checkler, Billy Parrish, Charles Bean, and Billy Glass, played.

C. E. Stapp, secretary-treasurer of the Clanton Chamber of Commerce, and Veterans Service officer, acted as master of ceremonies.

At present, the young farm couple is living in a ramshackle house on a side near their farm. With their loan, they will erect a five room, asbestos-siding home, with concrete porches. Some \$800 will go to construction of a barn, and \$400 for a water system. They will have REA power.

Donovan plans to operate a typical two-mule farm, with a couple of cows, hogs, chickens, truck crops, some cotton, fruit, and cover crops.

## Married Just Two Months

Twenty-year-old Mrs. Donovan, who was so excited today that she couldn't talk, is the former Mollie Belle Simms, daughter of J. L. Simms, Rt. 2, Maplesville. Married just two months, she still blushes about it.

Donovan entered service in February, 1945, and was discharged from the army in August, 1946. He lost one army brother on New Georgia Island. Another is a navy veteran and is living with their parents.

The farm is eight miles out of Maplesville on what Donovan describes as "fairly rolling" country. Nearby are the woods and streams which furnish him the hunting and fishing which is his favorite pastime.

Under the loan, Donovan will have 33 years to pay for the house, at four per cent interest. Payments will run about \$240 a year and the structure will be completely covered by insurance.

Upon returning from service, Donovan spent two years working in private industry. But he always retained the desire to return to the farm. His record with the Veterans Training Program has been among the best in the country.





**STUDY FARM PROBLEM IN GEORGIA** — These supervisory workers of the Georgia State Extension Service are shown at their annual conference studying ways and means of helping more Negro farmers shift to a pattern of diversified agriculture. The conference was at Georgia State college, Savannah, Ga. Seventy-two farm and home agents and supervisors were in attendance. Left to right are: A. S. Bacon, Assistant State Supervisor Alexander Hurse, State leader for 4-H club boys; P. H. Stone, State supervisor of Negro work; Miss Camilla Weems, State leader for 4-H club girls, and Augustus Hill, Assistant State leader for 4-H club boys. — (USDA Photo).





**MRS. BETHUNE GREETES HOME AGENTS**— Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, center, is shown chatting with a group of North Carolina home demonstration agents during a tea last week at the headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women. Altogether, 40 N. C. home agents were in Washington studying the program and organization of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Left to right are: Mrs. Dazelle F. Lowe, district home agent; Mrs. Ruby Carraway, district home agent; Miss Patsy Graves, home economist of the Farmers Home Administration; Mrs. Bethune; Mrs. Rosa T. Winchester, president of the North Carolina Home Agents Association; Dr. Madeline Kirkland, director of home economics in the D. C. public schools, and Mrs. Edith B. Tate, food economist of the Bureau of Nutrition and Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. USDA-Photo

program of work carried on by the extension workers in those two counties.

#### To Spend Time On Farms

Before returning to Tuskegee Institute for final conferences they will each spend two weeks on selected individual farms to get first hand training and experience.

Summing up what they hope to accomplish while in Alabama, Leveque and Roux said, "We want to study your general agricultural practices and your methods of reaching farmers with technical information."

From Alabama they will go to study the semi-arid conditions of West Texas. Some observations will be made in the state of Vermont before their training period is completed.



**FIRST FARM DEMONSTRATION PLOT**— The first demonstration project of colored farmers in the upper South was conducted on this plot in Gloucester, Va., 43 years ago by the late John B. Pierce, Extension Service field agent. Attorney T. C. Walker, owner of the land, is shown holding up a handful of its rich soil during the observance last week of the 43rd anniversary of Negro Extension Service. Mr. Walker, Director L. B. Dietrick of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and State Agent F. B. Goode of Gloucester County, Mr. Walker, Director L. B. Dietrick of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and State Agent F. B. Goode of Gloucester County, are shown with Mr. Walker, who is now 85, granted Mr. Pierce permission to use the one-acre plot. The attorney owns 300 acres. — (USDA Photo).

## Haiti Students To Study Extension Service Program

**TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE**— Special to The Advertiser  
ALA., Nov. 14.—Two of Haiti's young agriculturists begin a ten weeks' study today of Tuskegee Institute and the Agricultural Extension Service program in Alabama. They are Jores Leveque and Georges Roux. These two agricultural agents from Haiti were awarded service training grants by the Department of State and the Department of Agriculture to study extension work in the United States. This is part of our government's policy of scientific, educational and cultural cooperation with Latin American countries. They will go to Lauderdale and Madison Counties to study the

tries. **Spent Month in Washington**  
They came to Tuskegee from Washington, D. C., where they have spent a month in the foreign student section of the division of field studies and training, U. S. D. A., Extension Service. They spent the morning with W. B. Hill, of the state extension staff and T. M. Campbell, field agent, U. S. D. A.

For two weeks at Tuskegee Institute they will study the Extension Service program, observe the work of the School of Agriculture, the rural life program, and make full use of the extension library system. From here they will go to Lauderdale and Madison Counties to study the





**FARM AGENTS MEET**— This group attended the Farm and Home Demonstration Agents Conference held at Florida A and M College October 31-November 3.

The Theme this year was— "Planning the Extension Service to Improve Family Living. Miss Floy Britt, state agent and J. A. Gresham were in charge of other meetings.

Those in attendance were: English Greene, Alachua County; McKinley Jeffers, Columbia County; Russell Stephens, Gadsden County; N. H. Bennett, Hamilton County; M. E. Groover, Jefferson County; R. Elkins, Jackson County; Richard Hartsfield, Leon County; James Miller, Madison County; E. P. Smith, Marion County; Richard Bordlev, Sumter; Leontine Williams, Alacua County; Victor Simpson, Columbia County; Ethel Powell, Duval County; Gladys Wilkins, Gadsden County; Sudel Ford, Hissborough County; Ann A. Preston, Jackson County; Irene Mae Clark, Leon County; Althea Ayer, Madison County; Idella Kell, Marion County; Lee Ella Gambel, Putnam County and Ida T. Pemberton, Volusia County. (James Photo)



**STUDY FARM PROBLEM**—Supervisory workers of the Georgia State Extension Service are shown at their annual conference at Georgia State College, Savannah. Left to right: A. S. Bacon, assistant state supervisor; Alexander Hulse, leader for 4-H Club boys; P. H. Stone, state supervisor; Miss Camille Weems, leader for 4-H Club girls, and Augustus Hill, assistant leader, 4-H Club boys.—USDA Photo.



1b 1949

# Hill Is Appointed State Negro Leader New Alabama Extension Leader

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Oct. 8—The director of extension service of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute has announced the appointment of W. B. Hill as State Leader for Extension Work with Negroes in Alabama.

Hill succeeds Dr. J. R. Otis who resigned in September to accept the presidency of Alcorn College in Mississippi.

He is a 1931 graduate of Tuskegee Institute and brings to this position an excellent background of training and experience. Upon leaving Tuskegee in 1931 he went to Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College, Pine Bluff, Ark., as instructor in the Department of Agriculture. He spent two years at this institution.

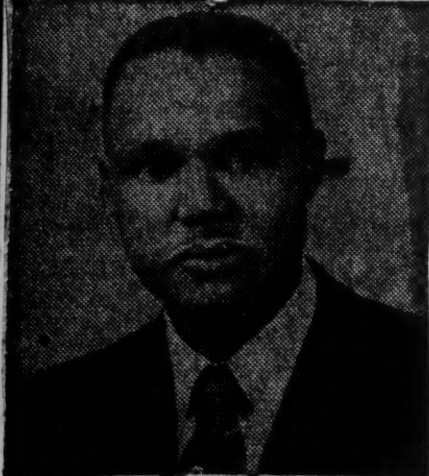
In 1933 he came to the Trinity High School, Athens, Ala., where he served as agricultural teacher until December, 1935. From that date forward he has been in the Extension Service of the State of Alabama.

His first assignment was county agent for Marengo County. In 1945 he was promoted to the state headquarters for extension work as district agent for seventeen north Alabama counties.

Hill received a Master of Science degree from Cornell last spring. He did his major work in extension education and his minor in agricultural economics.



W. B. HILL is the new state leader for colored work of the Alabama Extension service. He succeeds Dr. J. R. Otis who resigned to accept the presidency of Alcorn A. & M. college in Alcorn, Miss. Mr. Hill, a graduate of Tuskegee institute, received his Masters degree in extension education at Cornell university in June. Prior to the accepting of his new office, he was district agriculture agent for North Alabama. (ANP)



Atlanta Ga  
Early Edition

NEW ALA. EXTENSION LEADER—W.B.Hill is the new state leader for colored work of the Alabama Extension service. He succeeds Dr. J. R. Otis who resigned to accept the presidency of Alcorn A. and M. college in Alcorn, Miss. Mr. Hill, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, received his Masters degree in extension education at Cornell university in June. He was district agriculture agent for North Alabama.

## Agricultural Extension Service

MR. W.B.HILL, STATE LEADER, EXTENSION WORK WITH NEGROES IN ALABAMA



# Nine Modern Cotton Gins Owned by Negroes in Ark.

*Pittsburgh, Pa.*  
LITTLE ROCK (ANP)—A survey recently completed reveals that there are nine Negro-owned gins in Arkansas. All of the gins are cooperatives owned by the farmers in their immediate vicinities and each is equipped with modern machinery, two of them being completely operated by electricity. *Int-5-7-49*

All of these gins are working closely with the Production Marketing administration program and are doing good businesses.



1b 1949

## NEGRO FARM FAMILY REALIZING AMBITION

James Mosby And Wife Named  
By Arkansas FHA

*Commercial Appeal*  
THEIR PROGRESS STEADY

*Memphis Tenn.*  
Special to The Commercial Appeal

MARION, Ark., April 3.—An ambition is becoming a reality for the James Mosby family of the Townes Farm community near Earle.

The negro family has been notified by state officials of the Farmers Home Administration of selection as the Arkansas "Farm Family of the Year" among FHA borrowers in the Negro Division.

### What It Takes to Win

After crop harvesting each year, the progress made by families who borrow from the FHA is evaluated to select the farm family of the year. The winning family is the one which has adopted and carried out improved practices, raised living standards, whose members are good community workers and who have made reasonable progress in retiring their indebtedness.

The Mosbys, former farm day laborers, sharecroppers and WPA workers, became farm renters in 1939, after obtaining a production loan from the FHA. They rented a 46-acre farm until 1944, when they were approved for purchase of a farm of their own.

Because owning their own home and farm had always been their goal, the Mosbys set out to improve their land and pay for it as soon as possible when they moved to it five years ago.

In 1946, James Mosby and his wife entered The Commercial Appeal's Live-At-Home Competition. And they won second place in the state. They used their prize money to have their home wired for electricity.

### Not All In One Basket

The couple do not believe in putting all of their eggs in one basket as far as income is concerned. They had income from cotton, soybeans, hogs, poultry and eggs last year. Their 1948 crops included 10 acres of corn, five acres of oats, six acres of soybeans, seven acres of lespedeza, 16 acres of cotton, and five acres of pasture. Each year Mosby sows 20 acres of his cropland in winter cover crops.

At present James has two mules, a good milk cow, 25 hogs and a flock of 95 laying hens. Dur-

ing the past year he painted his home and all of his outbuildings.

Both Mosby and his wife take an active part in community and county activities. He is a swine leader in the Farm Improvement Club, while she serves as the club's poultry leader.

Arkansas



# Negro Farmers Show Gain

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—The work of Negro farm and home-extension agents employed in Southern states constitutes a national asset, but a check on the living standards and average income of the Negro farm population shows unmistakably that this group still is farthest down the scale in American agriculture.

This is the conclusion of Thomas M. Campbell, extension-service field agent at Tuskegee, in a special report on the work of his service prepared for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is encouraging to note the growth and expansion of extension work with Negro farmers in Southern states, Campbell says, considering that 41 years ago this service employed only two Negro farm demonstration agents in the entire Southern territory and that now 785 workers, including farm, home, and supervising agents, are employed.

The coming of the automobile has been an important factor in helping the Negro to better farming, Campbell says, because now a farm agent can cover as much territory in one day as he did in a week 25 or 30 years ago.

## Owners Are Helpful

Through community, county, and state organizations, they are able to reach much greater numbers of farmers and farm wives, and they also have the help of adult and junior farm leaders "who have sufficient intelligence to do the necessary correspondence, receive information, written and printed, and interpret same to their groups during the absence of extension agents."

"It is a rare thing now to visit a Negro home in the rural districts and not find some member of the family who can read and write."

Landowners, says Campbell, now are less inclined to object to Negro farmers receiving instruction from farm agents and, in fact, most of them show keen interest in getting this service to all farmers.

Discussing some of the problems still facing Negro farmers, Campbell says:

"The problem of health among rural colored people is not wholly different from that of the South. It is a national problem. There is an

But they still remain farthest down scale of U. S. agriculture

insufficient amount of public funds appropriated for general improvement of rural health conditions in the Southern region.

## Due to Low Incomes

"One cannot work day after day in and out of overcrowded Negro farm homes without realizing the futility of the well members of the families trying to live and remain healthy in the same quarters occupied by the sick."

"Since hospital facilities are not available for these rural patients, there is nothing else to do except try and hospitalize them in their homes."

"Among some, there seems to be a belief that the Negro is more susceptible by nature to certain diseases than other people. The fact is that poor health affecting them is due largely to economic causes. Their low resistance is due to a lack of sufficient nourishing food, balanced diet, adequate clothing, and good housing. Other contributing causes for high mortality among them are unscreened houses, shallow wells, unprotected springs, and surface toilets."

Work with 4-H Clubs for Negro farm children still is in a very unorganized condition, Campbell says. Only five states have full-time Negro club agents and much remains to be done in working out state and national policy for the advancement of this division.

"Along with 4-H Club projects this year extension agents have made recreation a definite part of their programs in an attempt to satisfy this general spirit of unrest and to stimulate and enliven a very dull existence."

## New Emancipation

"Wherever 4-H Club work has been introduced for Negro boys and girls, they have taken hold with a zest unequalled by any other division of the service. Reports show that scores of boys and girls have made enough money on their club projects to pay their tuition in school and many have substantial bank ac-

## Extension Service

counts."

Campbell predicts a new kind of emancipation is coming very soon to the Negro farmer in the South. He says these farmers are learning to diversify their crops, market their produce more advantageously, to raise livestock profitably, to improve and beautify their homes, and, most important of all, to educate their children.

## A Good Work Goes Forward

A half century ago there were few independent Negro farmers in the South. The economic position of the Southern rural Negro was pitifully bad. It is by no means all it could or should be now, but there has been a tremendous advance. Much of it has come about because of the devoted work of such men as Thomas M. Campbell, Negro field agent of the United States Department of Agriculture who works out of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Forty-one years ago the extension service employed only two colored farm demonstration agents in all the Southern territory. At the close of 1948 there were employed in this field 785 workers, including farm, home, and supervising agents. In 1907 there were few good roads in the South. Then the field agents reached backwoods farmers by horse and buggy, by horseback, or on foot. If the extension agent was able to cover 50 miles in a week he thought he was doing well. Often he found that those whom he would help were suspicious of him and his suggestions. Not many Negro farmers knew of his work because much of the information had to be disseminated through correspondence, and many of the rural colored people could not read. Also many of the farmers had been victimized by itinerant agents with something to sell or a scheme to promote which required their signatures and cash deposits for which too frequently they got nothing in return.

Times have changed, happily. The coming of better roads enabled agents to do as much work in a day as they used to do in a week. Although educational facilities for rural Negroes are still not excellent, there is hardly a farm family now in existence in which there are not some literate members. Landowners, seeing the benefits obtained, are no longer unwilling to cooperate with Negro extension agents. Indeed quite the contrary condition now exists. The news of what has been done on one farm travels fast to others. The agents no longer work with isolated farmers, but when a demonstration is planned, the farmers are asked to gather in one place a number of workers,

often with their families, who view as a group the improved methods, then take them back to their own homes to be put into practice.

\* \* \*

The work of Negro agents among their own people is not, however, confined to teaching better methods of agriculture. Their efforts are directed at creating better health conditions by bringing proved methods of health education to the rural population. They explain the hazards of unscreened windows, of using water from shallow wells, of carelessly built and indiscriminately used surface toilets. The low resistance to disease once found among Negro farmers has been proved to be not a result of any natural lack of immunity. It was due to a lack of sufficiently nourishing food, of a balanced diet, of adequate clothing and good housing. The agents have directed their efforts at improving sanitation in the country, of teaching the need of a varied diet and good clothing, of living in better homes. They have done this work by adhering closely to state and national programs promulgated by the various state departments of agriculture and the national department and those which have come from the land grant colleges and such institutions as Tuskegee.

Tom Campbell has worked long and hard to accomplish the results which are now evident. He is not the only one, of course. Hundreds of his colleagues have labored with him. But he is one outstanding example of unselfish devotion to the task of making his race healthier and happier.

## NEGROES' COLLEGES HELP AGRICULTURE

### Extension Work Said to Change

'Just Drifting' in the South

to Scientific Farming

New York, New York

By GEORGE STREATOR

Negro colleges in the South have increased their farm and home demonstrations to promote better income and places to live, college agricultural and home economics teachers said yesterday. State and Federal agricultural agencies have cooperated to increase understanding of soil preservation and modern methods of production.

Aided by an early spring, colleges in Alabama completed last week conferences of farmers, home-makers, ministers, young persons and educators. Five hundred persons attended the fortieth

annual North Alabama Farmers Conference at Normal, Ala., where views were exchanged on livestock, agriculture, poultry raising and home-making.

Bennett College for Woman at Greensboro, N. C., will hold its twenty-third institute of better home-making in April.

Speaking for the Negro division of the Alabama Extension Service at Tuskegee, Dr. J. R. Otis said that extension work among Negro farmers throughout the South was changing the pattern from "just drifting to scientific farming."

A conference of Negro farmers last week at the Stillman Institute, Tuscaloosa, Ala., included demonstrations of farm methods and a display of registered dairy and breeding stock. The Stillman meeting also honored fifty Negro farmers who had excelled in production of corn.

Negro youths in several other Alabama areas were praised at conferences for their thrift and industry in raising beef cattle—a departure from the one-crop, poor livestock past, leaders said.

State agents reported that 34,374 Alabama Negro youths participated last year in 4-H clubs in 669 communities. Of the 17,080 boys who started 4-H club projects, 12,042 completed their assignments. Girls were about as successful.

Negro youths took part in five fair-stock shows last year and showed 177 animals that brought in a total of \$43,469. The boys also exhibited 267 animals at three district dairy shows.

The farmer-of-the-year award for 1948 went to John T. Bulls Sr., 56, who owns 203 acres in Lauderdale County, Ala. This raised his annual income from \$1,000 in 1939 to \$24,000 last year. Part of the success in improving the land was attributed by Dr. Frederick D. Patterson of Tuskegee to modern methods in use of machinery.

The extension service at the Virginia State College, Petersburg, will conduct next month a soil conservation program on the 110-acre farm of James Reese, Negro farmer of Kenbridge, Va. The aim will be "to show the farm people of Lunenburg County and vicinity the proper use and treatment of land," Ross W. Newsome, state agent, said.

Dr. Luther H. Foster, president of the college, declared that from 1900 to 1930 Virginia abandoned 3,000,000 acres of farm land, largely because of soil erosion.

## The Negro Farmer

The Union  
Tuskegee Institute—(ANS)—More Negro farmers in the rural South will grow their crops without mortgages this year than ever before, according



to a survey by Thomas M. Campbell, field agent of the Department of Agriculture's extension service station at Tuskegee Institute.

*Mr. 2-22-49*  
Mr. Campbell predicts that an emancipation of a new kind is coming very soon to the Negro farmer of the South. He is learning how to diversify his crops, to market his produce more advantageously, to raise livestock profitably, to improve and beautify his home, and most important of all, to educate his children.

*2-22-49*  
More Negro farmers are willing to come under the influence of extension service practices than ever before. The service is no longer an experiment, but an investment that is paying in dollars and cents. Negro agents were becoming permanent fixtures, and is recognized as assets to the local communities in which they live and work.

## TOP FARMERS NAMED BY EXTENSION LEADERS

*Memphis, Tenn.*  
WASHINGTON—More emphasis is being placed on balanced farming and better living by top colored farmers of the South, report six State Extension leaders who recently named the Negro farmers and 4-H'ers of achievement for 1948 in their respective States.

Among those included in the list were farmers and 4-H'ers whose gross incomes ranged from less than \$300 to more than \$25,000 during the year. However, emphasis was not on income, but rather on diversification and improvement of living conditions on the farm.

The production record of one of the two Arkansas farmers of achievement, for example, showed 500 bushels of soybeans, 25 tons of hay, 250 bushels of sweet potatoes, 12 bales of cotton, a year-round garden, hogs, poultry, and milk cows. Also, this farmer, Dave Evans of Emmett, lives in a comfortable home with electricity and running water.

### GEORGIA LEADER

Georgia's leading colored farmer of the year, Eddie Wilson of Statesboro, operates a 288-acre farm on which he raises tobacco, peanuts corn, cotton, hay, naval stores, beef and dairy cattle, hogs, and poultry. He and his family of four live in a modern eight-room home with running water, electrici-

ty, a bathroom, and a home freezing unit.

*Mr. 2-4-49*  
Says Mr. Wilson, "I don't believe in one-crop farming."

His sons, Woodrow and Harvey are planning careers in agriculture. They are both graduates of Hampton institute in the fields of agriculture and farm mechanics.

For home improvement, 4-H'er Velma Lee Hicks of Norphlet, Ark., takes top honors. She carried out gardening, canning, cooking, and home beautification projects herself and encouraged others to carry out projects through demonstrations and a radio talk. For her work, Miss Hicks has been acclaimed the outstanding 4-H girl of Arkansas and has been awarded a scholarship and a savings bond.

State Extension leaders making the selections of farmers and 4-H'ers of achievement were: Dr. Ala., respectively; Moses Medley, J. R. Otis of Alabama, H. C. Rayfarmer of Helena, Ark.; J. M. of Arkansas, P. H. Stone of Georgia, A. Q. Burnett of Kentucky, and Clayton Marcus and Preston Martin G. Bailey of Maryland, and Jackson, 4-H'ers of Camilla and W. H. Williamson of Tennessee. These leaders report that top farmers are placing increased emphasis on sound farming and home-making practices and on cropping programs which conserve their soil, as well as ensure good incomes.

For example, one of Kentucky's top farmers of the year is a veteran of World War II, James Jackson of Trenton, who has switched from tobacco to dairying, because land. By growing almost all of his feed for his herd, he is netting about \$250 a month from the pastures are better suited for his sale of cream.

*Mr. 2-4-49*  
Alabama's farmers of the year are J. T. Bulls of Killen, and J. H. Pickett of Uniontown. The former grossed over \$25,000 last year off cotton, corn, and livestock. The latter, Mr. Pickett, found his land unsuited for cotton, and turned to dairying. Today, he is one of Alabama's outstanding dairy farmers. His gross income averages more than \$1,000 a month. Anxious to help others get started in dairying, he holds dairy school every year for prospective young dairy farmers.

Among the top 4-H'ers of the year are John Wallace and Phillip Jones of Maryland, Milton J. L. Spight of Tennessee, and Willis Brown of Arkansas. Both Maryland 4-H'ers are pioneering in new crops for their communities. Last year, Wallace grossed \$500 off a flock of USDA small white turkeys, the breed developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture research center at Beltsville, Md. As a result of young Wallace's success, several of his neighbors plan to raise the same breed of turkeys this year.

*Mr. 2-4-49*  
Young Jones of Huntingtown, Md., is supplementing his tobacco

project with a herd of sheep. Last year, he purchased a purebred Hampshire ram in order to improve his herd and aid his neighbors in starting herds.

Four-H'er Spight of Middleton, Tenn., has bought and paid for a 95-acre farm by carrying out sound farming practices. On this farm, he supports his mother and his younger sister and brother. This interrupted his education, but at 20, he is back in school and will complete his high school work next year.

*2-4-49*  
From an income point of view, young Brown of Marianna, Ark., has set the 4-H record of the year by grossing \$1,745 from corn, cotton, and livestock.

Other farmers and 4-H'ers named by the Extension leaders are: Jerry Thomas and O'Neal Wilhite, 4-H'ers of Gallion and Moulton, Ala., respectively; Moses Medley, J. R. Otis of Alabama, H. C. Rayfarmer of Helena, Ark.; J. M. of Arkansas, P. H. Stone of Georgia, A. Q. Burnett of Kentucky, and Clayton Marcus and Preston Martin G. Bailey of Maryland, and Jackson, 4-H'ers of Camilla and W. H. Williamson of Tennessee. These leaders report that top farmers are placing increased emphasis on sound farming and home-making practices and on cropping programs which conserve their soil, as well as ensure good incomes.

## Colored Farmers Of Alabama Get Awards For Corn

*Mr. 2-4-49*  
Washington, D. C.—Five Alabama colored farmers set State records for their group last year by producing over 100 bushels of corn per acre, reports Dr. J. R. Otis, State Extension leader in charge of Negro Affairs.

In recognition of their achievement, Tuskegee Institute has presented them certificates of award. The five farmers are: Robert Ellis, who topped the group with 106 bushels per acre, John C. Belle, Peter Brown, Ollie Ellis, and James Eason.

*Mr. 4-3-49*  
Their accomplishment is the outcome of a State-wide contest which stimulated increased corn yields in most of the counties of Alabama. The average yield obtained by the contestants was 59.49 bushels per acre. The average yield of all farmers in the State is less than 20 bushels per acre.

Farmers Uplift Themselves

# Texas Farm Families Featured in Article

*Lab. 5-21-49*  
WASHINGTON—Two farm families are featured in the April issue of "The Extensioner," published by the Texas State Extension Service. The two families are those of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Collins and Mr. and Mrs. Otho Warren of Pilot Knob community near Austin. In a seven-page illustrated feature which begins on the cover, the publication describes how these two families and others are lifting themselves toward better living with the help of the colored farm and home demonstration agents.

A few months ago, reports "The Extensioner," the Collinses moved (2) they had to earn the money to out of a weatherbeaten old house build a new home. Their Travis County farm and selected as one of the outstanding home demonstration agents played an important role in both steps. purebred hogs and dairy cattle. He plans to be a dairy farmer, and an Austin bank already has offered to back him.

The Warrens, the other family featured by the publication, have a Grade A dairy with 33 cows. Mr. Warren worked in the Seattle Navy yard during the war and saved up to buy the farm he had been renting. He has built a new dairy barn and has installed an electric milk-



CAROLINA YOUTH  
EXHIBIT 482  
FARM ANIMALS

Raleigh, N.C.-A total of 482 animals was exhibited in seven district dairy shows held this fall by Negro Youth, according to R.L. Wynn, dairy specialist for the State College Extension Service.

The shows were sponsored by the Extension Service in cooperation with local chambers of commerce, county commission, farm bureau units, dairies, and other business and civic groups.

The young people who participated received a total of \$4,108.50 in the form of cash prizes, banquets, and special awards.

Wynn said the quality of the animals exhibited this year showed great improvement over that of previous years. He attributed the improvement to better pastures, use of more home-grown feeds, and improved breeding facilities. The largest show was held at Rocky Mount, where 104 animals were exhibited. Totals for other shows were: Fayetteville, ninety-two; Greensboro, sixty-three; Durham, forty-eight; Reidsville, forty-six; Monroe, forty-nine and Shelby, eighty.

Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Courier  
Sat. 11-12-49



1b 1949

# First Negro Farm Bureau School To Open

Constitution State News Service  
GLENWOOD—The first Farm Bureau Training School to be held in the State exclusively for Negro farmers will begin at the Glenwood Negro High School July 21, it was announced yesterday by H. L. Wingate, President of the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation.

Leading Negro farmers from the first, third, sixth and eighth districts will join in the school, with Wingate and Alva Tabor, Fort Valley head of the vocational department of the Georgia State College for Negroes, giving the principal address. *Man 7-11-49*

Participating on the program will be A. W. Graham, Agricultural Agent of Wheeler County; S. H. Weatherspoon, Negro veteran teacher; Richard Wilson, D. C. Collins, Lem Willcox and A. D. Baker, all Negro Farm Bureau officers.

E. E. Tutenwhite, President of the Wheeler County Farm Bureau, will co-operate with the attending farmers, and A. M. Morman, of Dover, with W. H. Smith, Jr., of Statesboro, GFBF directors, will also be present.

Farm Bureau Training School (Georgia)



# Tuskegee Farmers' Conference

## Urges Industry, Citizenship

Alabama Star  
Editor Principal

Speaker To Group

Jul. 1-25-49

**TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE**—Near 2000 persons from the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, crowded into Logan Gymnasium Thursday for a discussion of "Increasing Income through Better Farm and Home Management," theme of the 58th Annual Farmers' Conference. Established by Booker T. Washington, this yearly event has continued to attract in ever-increasing numbers farmers eager for practical education and the chance for interchange of experience and advice. 1-25-49

The morning session in the attractively -- decorated gymnasium was under the direction of Lawrence A. Potts, Dean of Tuskegee's Agriculture School, who led the informal discussion of the conference theme.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, opened the afternoon session with a short talk in which he said that the Conference coming on the last day of the week-long Farm and Home Week Program which the Institute had sponsored, gave convincing proof of the growing interest in modern agriculture in the South. He added, "Agriculture and the development of rural life represent the heart of our program here at Tuskegee."

Col. Harry M. Ayers, editor and publisher of the Anniston, Alabama STAR, was principal speaker.

Col. Ayers' stimulating address took as its subject "You Too Can Save the World," and listed the ways in which the farmer, as the cornerstone of Southern economy could effect this end, including methods of soil conservation, crop diversification and soil rebuilding. "The farmer of tomorrow must be one of the best educated men in the United States," he said, adding praise for Tuskegee's agricultural training program and for its pioneering leadership in the construction of low cost permanent homes for the farm family.

In a forthright discussion of the franchise, Col. Ayers stated his conviction that all citizens regardless of race who have character and intelligence are entitled to the

privilege of voting, and strongly denounced self-appointed groups which advocate intolerance in human relations.

The meeting concluded with the annual presentation of achievement awards. Robert Ellis and Oliver Ellis, of Hale County; John C. Bello and James Eason of Sumter County; and Peter Brown, Sr., of Tuscaloosa County, were each awarded certificates for the production of more than 100 bushels of corn per acre on their farms.

The top award of the year, the Merit Farmer Certificate, went to John Thomas Bulls of Killon, Ala. In making the citation, Dr. Patterson pointed out that progress and improvement was the basis for making the award. In 1940, Mr. Bulls' farm produced 16 bales of cotton to 65 acres, but after the farmer undertook the improvements suggested by the extension service, he increased his income from \$1,000 in 1939 to \$24,000 in 1948, and his cotton yield to 1 bale an acre. 1-25-49

### CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Part of the Farmers' Conference program is the passing of annual resolutions setting forth the group's policy on certain important matters. This year's resolutions reviewed the original objectives which continued to bring Negro farmers annually to "encourage both individual and community efforts."

"The farm homes", according to the resolutions, "is the basic center of rural life and provides the index of contentment." Farm women were praised for their contributions to happy home life in their thrift and labors.

The Conference also asked for federal aid to education in order that "each child in the nation may be assured the schooling to which his American heritage entitles him." Specific reference was made to "unsatisfactory opportunities both in terms of facilities and teachers' salaries for Negro children" particularly in the rural South.

Farm labor displacement by farm machinery was discussed, and small farmers urged to meet present demands by purchasing and operating machinery cooperatively. It was recommended that as the South invites industry to locate in this section industrial employment which can absorb surplus farm labor be distributed "without distinction based on race, color or creed."

farmers were also urged to participate in National Negro Health Week, a program started by Booker T. Washington in 1915, and Southern states were asked to make available funds for the care of the indigent sick in order to save money lost through resulting non-productivity. 1-25-49

As good citizens, a resolution stated, farmers are urged to qualify for the use of the ballot, and help put into office men of integrity committed to "strict adherence to the principles of democracy."

Reference was made to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and the State of the Union Message of President Truman, in which he reaffirmed his allegiance to the great Christian principles of human rights. "It is heartening," said the statement, "that much of the Christian leadership and many of the newspapers in the South are supporting the national and world-wide sentiment for tolerance and brotherhood." It concluded, "the lynch mob makes no friends for democracy, and the demagogue makes no contribution to good citizenship."



# OF FARMS and FARMERS

## David Jackson, Georgia Farmer Nets Real Cash On 1,100 Acres

*Chicago Defender*  
A Georgia descendant of slave parents, known for his thrift and plugging determination, purchased a 25-acre farm 35 years ago on payments. Today, his property holdings total more than 1,100 acres.

*Chicago, Ill.*  
The 58-year-old successful farmer is David Jackson of Adel, Ga. In building his farming operations from the humble beginning, Mr. Jackson has made use of modern machinery and has kept pace with the new developments in this basic industry. The result is that his farms earn a handsome profit.

*Set 4-23-49*  
"The bulk of my success," Mr. Jackson says, "is due to my ability to produce and market to good advantage two and three crops of vegetables on the same land each year. My first consideration is the production of food and feed needed for my own use because the farmer's table is his best market."

He values his tobacco crop and livestock as principal sources of income. Under present allotment of 23 acres for tobacco, he averages 1,400 to 1,800 pounds per acre yield which is a cash income of approximately \$600 per acre, or \$13,800. He markets 300 to 500 hogs yearly that net about \$12,000. His 40 to 50 average acreage in watermelons bring between \$250 and \$300 per acre. In addition, his activities in the buying and selling of farm products annually turn over \$50,000 or more.

Farming is hard work. Tough work—work that requires a man to put out his energies from sun-up to sunset. Yet, Mr. Jackson has found time, along with his wife, to exercise an active interest in the affairs of his community, to work in the church, and to work in the interest of charity.

*Los Angeles Tribune*  
**Farmer 12 years ago a 'cropper, grosses \$9,000 off hogs, peanuts**

*Southampton County, Va.*  
What a little help can mean to a sharecropper who really wants to make a go of farming is demonstrated by Rubdel Joe, who now owns a 220 acre farm near here.

*Set 4-9-49*  
Twelve years ago, Joe, at 19, became a sharecropper. Two years later, Farmers Home Administration officials approved his application for a loan to buy an 84-acre farm. By the end of 1947, the Joe family had saved enough after 10 years to pay off their 40-year loan. Then they sold out and got their present, and larger, farm—220 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe now own two tractors, a truck, 130 purebred Poland China hogs, milk cows, and a flock of chickens. Peanuts and hogs are their main cash crops. Last year, they grossed \$4,500 off peanuts, and \$4,500 from hogs.

"I owe my success," says Joe, "to the Farmers Home Administration for giving me a start, and to my Extension Service county agent who encouraged me to diversify, and taught me the value of modern farming and management practices."

Joe is a member of the Black Poland China Breeders Association, chairman of the Swine Improvement Club of Southampton county, and member of the county agricultural advisory board.

## FROM SHARECROPPERS TO OWNERS IN 9 YEARS

*Monticello, Miss.*  
Starting college next fall. By use of artificial insemination Jack Davis is developing one of the finest dairy herds in his area. Both Mr. and Mrs. Davis feel that without the assistance of the loans and guidance made available by the FHA they would not have been able to achieve this success.

*Set 6-11-49*  
It includes a new home and outbuildings, constructed at a cost of \$2,900. At the same time the family used additional loan funds to purchase eight milk cows, a pressure cooker and 100 baby chickens. With the assistance of FHA personnel a complete farm and home plan was developed to guide the Davis family in carrying out their farm and home operations.

**INCREASED MILK PRODUCTION**  
An immediate supplementary income was realized from the sale of milk and eggs. Prior to this time they had never received farm income from any source other than cotton. By utilizing good farming practices and soil saving measures they increased milk production and cotton yields to the point where they were able to pay off the entire operating loan in 1944 and their farm ownership in 1948.

Since receiving their initial operating loan they have been able to carry on their enterprises themselves without further assistance from any leading agency.

Mrs. Davis has canned an average of 400 quarts of food annually since the family obtained the farm. They point with pride to the well-balanced live-at-home program which they have adopted. They have also established a good orchard.

### LEADERS IN COMMUNITY

In addition to becoming good farmers, Mr. and Mrs. Davis participate in many community and civic activities. Their two children have finished high school and plans are being made to send them to

# OF FARMS and FARMERS

## Man, Wife Sharecroppers Rise From Scratch To 111-Acre Farm

*Monticello, Miss.*  
Starting from scratch as sharecroppers in 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davis are now owners of an 111-acre farm which they purchased with a 40-year loan from the Farmers' Home Administration, according to James H. Carr, county supervisor.

It includes a new home and outbuildings, constructed at a cost of \$2,900. At the same time, the family used additional loan funds to purchase eight milk cows, a pressure cooker and 100 baby chicks. With the assistance of Farmers' Home personnel, a complete farm and home plan was developed to guide the Davis family in carrying out their farm and home operations.

*Set 6-25-49*  
An immediate supplementary income was realized from the sale of milk and eggs. Prior to this time, they had never received farm income from any source other than cotton. By utilizing good farm practices and soil saving measures, they increased milk production and cotton yields to the point where they were able to pay off the entire operating loan in 1944, and their farm ownership loan in 1948.

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selves without further assistance from any lending agency. Mrs. Davis has canned an average of 400 quarts of food annually since the family obtained the farm. They point with pride to the well-balanced live-at-home program which they have adopted. They have also established a good orchard.

### Leaders in Community

In addition to becoming good farmers, Mr. and Mrs. Davis participate in many community and civic activities. Their two children have finished high school and plans are being made to send them to college next fall.

By use of artificial insemination, Jack Davis is developing one of the finest dairy herds in his area.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Davis feel that without the assistance of the loans, and guidance made available by the Farmers' Home Administration, they would not have been able to achieve this success.



# Pays Farm Ownership Loan In Less Than Two Years

McGHEE, Ark., —Twenty years ago Jack and Rozenia Ervin were sharecroppers and often wondered how it would feel to own their farm. Well, now they know for recently they paid their final installment in full on their farm ownership loan to the Farmers Home Administration in less than two years time.

## 35 BALES OF COTTON

Last year the Ervins made 35 bales of cotton on 26 acres using all family labor in harvesting the crop. Although they had 40 years to pay for the loan they got permission of the government to pay the account in full at the end of the crop year.

Today the Ervins own about 90 acres of land two and one-half miles east of McGhee achieving their dreams of ownership by dint of hard work, determination to succeed, their willingness to cooperate in carrying out a well-planned live-at-home program and to make use of sound farm practices.

Let's let Mr. Ervin tell how he was able to transform his dream into reality in his own words.

"When Rozenia and I got married at Portland in 1928", he began, "we planned to have a farm of our own some day. At that time we had no workshop or plow took the only thing we could do was to sharecrop. For 10 years we were sharecroppers always making good crops but never had enough money to buy equipment to operate a farm let alone buy one."

## GOOD CROP

"In 1937 we made an unusually good crop and managed to get enough money to buy a team of mules and some tools. We rented some land that year. During all the lean years of sharecropping and renting we never lost hope of some day owning a farm. After starting to farm for ourselves in 1938 we met with better success. We had an average of about 20 bales of cotton each year and were able to save a little money to buy livestock but never enough to salt away to make a down payment on a farm. I admit it was discouraging at times but we never gave up hope."

The Ervins learned about the Farmers Home Administration in 1947 and about the loans available to tenants, sharecroppers and farm laborers to buy farms of their own.

They were told to go to the FHA county office at McGhee where they talked things over with Richard H. Holderby, county supervisor. They filled out an application which was later passed on by the county committee.

"We were renting a farm which we wanted to buy," Mr. Ervin con-

tinued, "and when the county committee approved our application we were very happy. We took over the farm as owners on January 1, 1948."

In addition to the 26 acres and 35-bale yield the family had 12 acres of corn with a yield of 200 bushels, 7 acres of hay which produced 400 bales. Other farm products included 1,000 pounds of peas, 75 bushels of sweet potatoes, 25 bushels of Irish potatoes, 50 gallons of syrup. They planted one acre of truck garden for home use and canning.

Jack Ervin has 15 acres of permanent pasture sodded with Bermuda grass and planted with lespedeza. White Dutch clover will be seeded this fall. He owns four head of workstock, eight cows, 12 yearlings, four brood sows, 16 pigs and a flock of 40 laying hens.

The family in addition to the parents consists of three boys—ages 3, 16, and 18 and two daughters, 6 and 12.



*The Courier  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Sat 6-4-49*



**Fruit of the Soil**—This rare sight is a corn weighing down in Littleton, N. C. by agricultural instructors. The men in charge of the operation are S. B. Simmons, State supervisor of vocational agriculture, and Isaiah Rogers, Phillips High School, Battleboro, N. C., and Mr. Zollicoffer, Bricks, N. C.—Rivera Photo.

# Carolinian Shows How With *The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 6-4-49* Long-Range Farm Program

**Small Loan  
Paved Way  
To Success**

**WILSON, N. C.** When the Government made Clinton Ford, Wilson County tenant farmer, a small loan back in 1939 to buy some farm tools and for operating expenses, he had no idea that ten years later he would own his own farm, debt free.

Ford repaid his operating loan with interest within the first year, later borrowing again to expand his

operations. The second loan was repaid just as promptly, and Ford was making progress all the while. So much progress, in fact, that the Farmers Home Administration supervisor for Wilson County explained the possibilities of a farm ownership loan and encouraged him to buy a farm. Mr. and Mrs. Ford immediately made an application which was approved by the County committee.

## STARTED AT ONCE

A farm was located in 1942—the one they now own—and the

Fords moved in during the fall of that year. But they didn't wait until they had moved before planning to get the maximum benefits from the land and home.

They immediately enlisted the services of the soil conservation experts and the Farmers Home supervisors for help in planning soil and home improvements. A long-range program was set up which included crop rotation, soil building, terracing, pasture seeding and development, a plot for the year-round gar-

den, home renovation, etc.

Mr. Ford has harvested six crops from his farm and has had practically all types of weather to contend with. He has yet to make a crop below the average for the County. For example his average per-acre yields in three crops show from 1200 to 1500 pounds of tobacco.

a bale of lint cotton and sixty bushels of corn.

The family has also produced above home needs and sold livestock and vegetables for an average of \$180 per year.

## MANY IMPROVEMENTS

In paying for their farm in six years they have made the following improvements: built stock barn costing \$1100, using own labor; made \$350 improvements to the home not set up in the FHA Engineer's work sheet; cut loss from the farm and built tobacco barn costing \$200; bought oil burner for curing tobacco for \$150 and spent an additional \$60 for pasture improvement.

Achieving this was not as easy as it sounds because when the Fords first selected the farm a lot of folks didn't think they could make it pay.

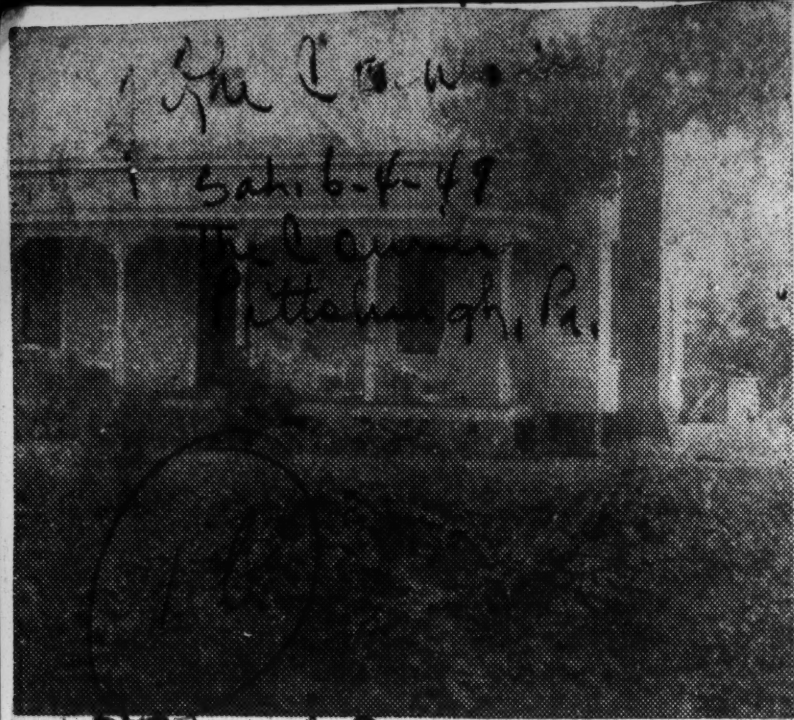
When Mr. Ford applied for assistance from the Government his net worth was about \$275 not including a few household furnishings. When he paid off the final installment of his loan recently his net worth was \$9,114 and if the present year's crop is figured in, the Fords will have a net worth of more than \$11,500 this fall.



## With His Hands—

Clinton Ford built this barn with his own hands, after getting a small loan from the FHA for the purpose of rehabilitating his farm. He succeeded.

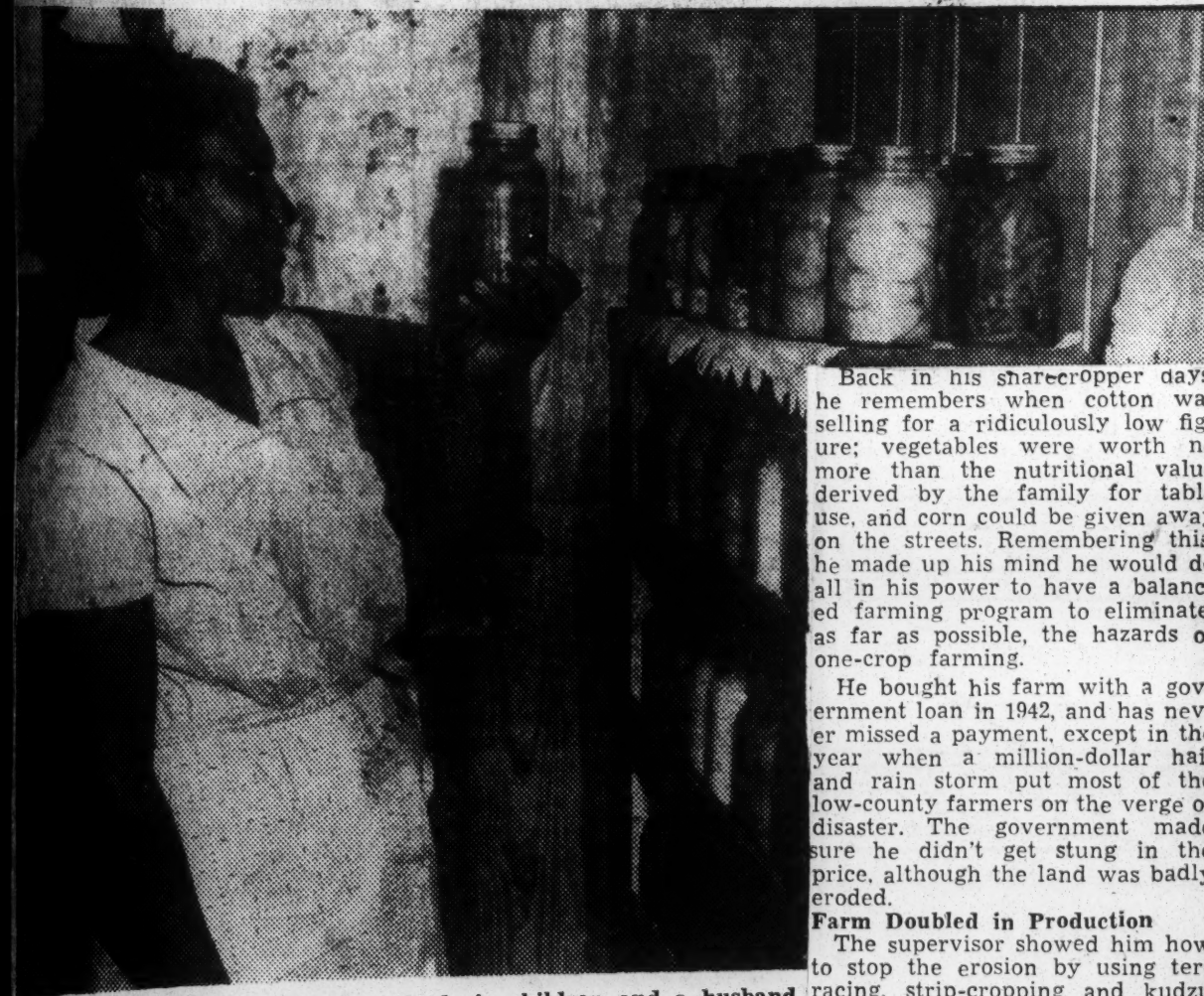




**New Home—** This neat, new home is that of Clinton Ford, the Wilson County (N. C.) tenant farmer who turned a run-down farm into a productive, bright spot, by using carefully planned methods, backed by a small loan from the Government.



# 7 Lean Years Pay Off For Former Sharecropper: Has 84-Acre Farm



A LOT OF FOOD is required to feed six children and a husband during the winter months, but Mrs. Odessa Smith finds it's no problem when her pressure cooker is handy. Here she holds one of 500 jars of foodstuffs she cans in an average season.

GREENVILLE, S. C.—Maydee Smith of Route 1 Fountain Inn, a sharecropper before the Farmers' Home Administration bought him the same farm on which he was born 36 years ago, has made his 84-acre investment into a model farm in a scant seven years of ownership.

His production program gained more and more momentum as Smith applied the newest farm practices and techniques. Some he learned from the FHA supervisor, who helped him get the loan, and others he gleaned from watching the latest farm management developments that could be tailored to fit his individual needs.

It's an understatement to say Maydee Smith is a hard worker. His energy and enterprise helped him build up the 84 acres until they now compare with any in the coun-

ty. He has eight milk cows, two mules, three hogs and a new litter of pigs, a substantial farm home and well-developed pasture lands. He follows some of the best strip cropping and terracing methods devised anywhere.

## Better Than Average Buildings

Smith's holdings are bolstered by better than average outbuildings, and water is supplied by three natural creeks running through the farm, one of which he plans to dam in the near future for an irrigation pond.

Back in his sharecropper days, he remembers when cotton was selling for a ridiculously low figure; vegetables were worth no more than the nutritional value derived by the family for table use, and corn could be given away on the streets. Remembering this, he made up his mind he would do all in his power to have a balanced farming program to eliminate, as far as possible, the hazards of one-crop farming.

He bought his farm with a government loan in 1942, and has never missed a payment, except in the year when a million-dollar hail and rain storm put most of the low-county farmers on the verge of disaster. The government made sure he didn't get stung in the price, although the land was badly eroded.

## Farm Doubled in Production

The supervisor showed him how to stop the erosion by using terracing, strip-cropping and kudzu vine in the worst places. Today, there is not a single gully left on his farm and the land is actually twice as productive as it was in his tenant days. Flourishing vegetables and watermelon patches, white and yellow hybrid corn fully 10 feet high, and waist-high cotton are some of the visible proof that he has made a success of farming.

He also converts surplus vegetables into quick cash. This year, he raised okra on a little-used plot of ground near one of the creeks. It has earned him more than \$22,

and he was still picking a few weeks ago. While this amount may seem small, it amounts to about one-fifth of his annual loan payment, completion of which in about 30 years at this present schedule, will make the farm debt-free.

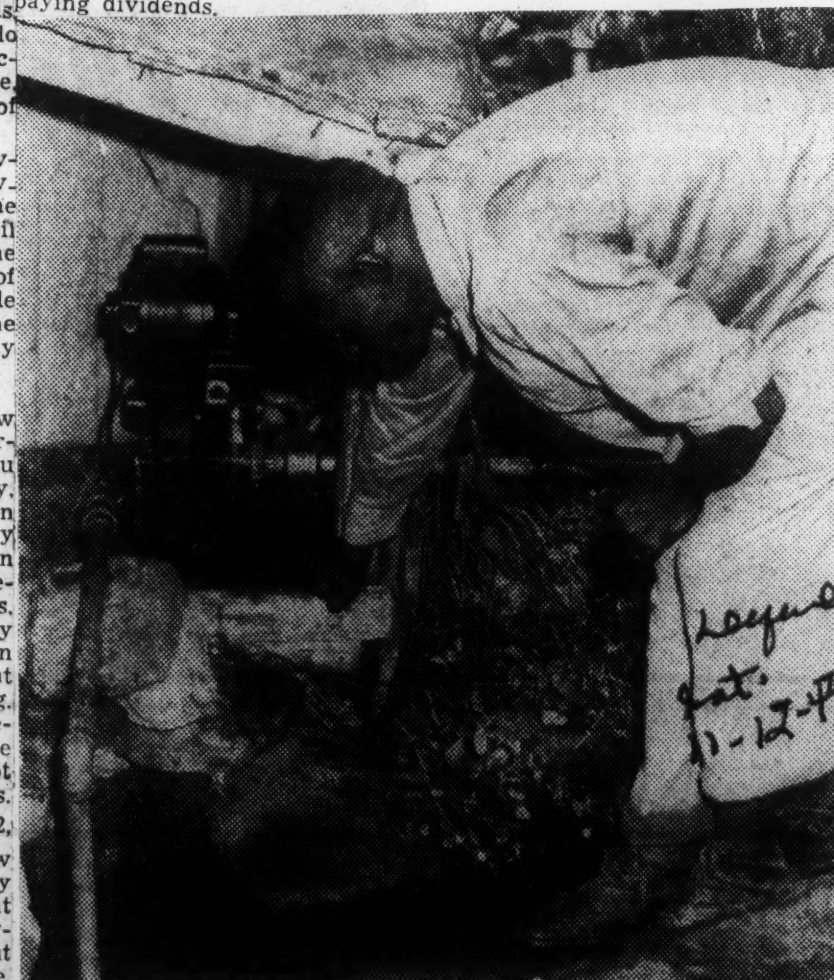
L. M. Verdin, county supervisor of the Farmers' Home Administration, has been keeping a weather eye on the Smith farm lately, be-

cause it is being used as a pilot farm to show other farmers in the community what can be accomplished by those who cooperate with the supervised credit program of the agency.

## Smith Meets the Test

Loans must result in substantial farm and home improvements. Families cooperating with the FHA program are encouraged to participate in other agricultural programs and to use the latest methods of farming. Fundamental adjustments, such as application of basic soil treatment, establishing improved pastures, fencing, obtaining or improving foundation livestock, using improved varieties of seed, adequate fertilization and pest control measures also are encouraged.

Maydee Smith meets every one of these requirements in full and usually does a little more than is required. Mrs. Smith and the six children who complete the family all are doing their share to keep the 84-acre farm enterprise a going concern. Here's a case where industry, ability and cooperation are paying dividends.



NO MORE WALKING down the hill for fresh water for Maydee Smith, now that electricity is available. Pump in house brings full supply for family and stock right at hand. Smith plans to irrigate entire farm from pond he is digging and will fill with pumps.



# 'Never-Say-Die' ... Thrilling Farm Drama

*The Defendant*  
*Chicago Ill*  
NORFOLK, Va. — How the Browns lost the farm they were buying and then repurchased it is a story which dramatizes the difference between one-crop farming and diversification, says State Agent Ross W. Newsome of the Virginia State Extension Service.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Brown, who had two young sons, started buying a 150-acre farm in the Hickory community near Norfolk, Va., twenty years ago. They counted on corn and hogs alone. Then came the depression and the price of corn and hogs, like that of other farm products, dropped sharply. The Browns found themselves slipping.

## COULDN'T CARRY LOAD

Although by 1938 the agricultural prices had improved somewhat, corn and hogs just couldn't carry the whole farm load. So, the Browns lost their farm, Mr. Newsome points out.

While farming as tenants on the same land that they had owned, the Browns decided to join an Extension tour and observe what some of the other farmers in the county were doing. On one farm, they noticed that the owner was raising soybeans and white potatoes in addition to corn and hogs; also he was growing most of his own food supply. The Browns asked themselves why they couldn't do likewise.

*Feb. 5 28-49*  
That was the turning point in their farming career, thinks Mr. Newsome. Following the example of balanced farming they had observed, the Browns soon were able to begin buying back their farm. For the last three years, they have grossed nearly \$6,000 annually.

Two years ago, Mr. Brown died, but one son, Roy, and a daughter, Gladys, who is a junior 4-H leader, are helping their mother to run the farm. This pattern of farming has enabled Mrs. Brown to have a new home. The sons are building her a brick bungalow, valued at \$7,500.

The home improvement program which Mrs. Brown and some of the other families in Norfolk County are carrying out is a result of the work of Miss Cleopatra Williamson, county home demonstration agent.



# PRESIDENT SIGNS FARM PRICE BILL

Law Assures Support of Five  
Basic Crops Through 1950  
at Levels of 90% of Parity

By ANTHONY LEVIERO  
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 — The farm bill providing high price supports of farm commodities through 1950, and a flexible system after that, became law today. President Truman signed the controversial measure without comment.

The law assures the support of prices of the five basic crops—wheat, corn, cotton, rice and peanuts—at 90 per cent of parity through 1950 if marketing quotas and acreage planting allotments are applied by Charles F. Brannan, the Secretary of Agriculture.

It was believed likely that these controls would be invoked, as the President, Mr. Brannan and other high Administration officials are pledged to continue high supports.

Furthermore, the law is regarded by the Administration merely as an interim measure that displaces the Republican-sponsored Aiken law which contains a flexible support formula that is less liberal. In the next session of Congress Administration forces plan a hard drive for passage of the Brannan plan. This plan's main principle is the payment of a production subsidy to farmers when their products fall below market prices.

## Sliding Scale in Prospect

Under the new law, farm prices will be supported between 80 and 90 per cent of parity during 1951. After that a sliding-scale system, devised by Senator Clinton P. Anderson, Democrat, of New Mexico, and former Secretary of Agriculture, would come into force. This scale would begin at 75 per cent and its maximum would be 90 per cent.

Parity is a price calculated to give the farmer a return in purchasing power that compares to what he received in an earlier favorable period. A dual standard of parity is provided in the new law. One is based on the period 1909-14 and the other on the most recent ten years.

Until 1954 the Secretary of Agriculture would be required to apply whichever one was most favorable to the producer. After that only the most recent ten years would be applied.

Dairy Foods Separate

This double standard applies, however, only to the five basic crops and tobacco. Milk, butterfat and their products are placed in a separate class for support between 75 and 90 per cent of parity, beginning next year. They are now supported at 90 per cent. Potatoes, wool, mohair, honey and tung nuts are provided with supports between 60 and 90 per cent.

The Secretary of Agriculture receives authority to support between zero and 90 per cent other commodities, including some now fixed at 90 per cent, such as hogs, eggs, turkeys, poultry, flaxseed, cottonseed, and sweet po-



## FHA HOME MANAGEMENT SUPERVISORS



The springtime "big push" is on in family living enterprises with Farmers Home Administration families ably assisted by the above county home management supervisors. They are, top panel, left to right: Amanda M. Cummings, Georgia; Ruth B. Burns, Arkansas; Earnestine M. Tucker, Alabama. lower panel, left to right: Jennie B. Marbles, Arkansas and Mildred E. Meadows, Alabama. Center photo shows Home Economist Pasty A. Graves of the Washington office. Not shown are R. Jaunita Wells, Georgia and Florence McGehee, Mississippi. *Sat 6-11-49*

These workers, trained in the field of home economics, help farm families who obtain production and ownership loans from the Farmers Home Administration with fundamental problems of the family living, adequate food for the home, poultry raising, health, housing and money management. At this season the families are encouraged to plant gardens for maximum seasonal food supply and a surplus for preservation by canning and freezing for winter use.

The traditional springtime cleanup includes an intensive maintenance and renovation program of house painting, repair, screening, improvement of

sanitary facilities and the beautification of home grounds and yards. The home supervisors are also called on for advice in the purchase and use of modern home conveniences such as home freezers, washing machines, refrigerators, modern stoves all of which help to improve the farm family's standard of living. (ANP)



# 4-H Group Challenged To Change Rural South

Inspiring Speeches Made to Campers by Pres. W. S. Davis and Dr. Harry V. Richardson; 120 Delegates from 17 States at Meeting held at A&I

That colored 4-H'ers are being counted on to play an important part in transforming the rural South was the challenge placed before clubbers by speakers last week at the second annual Regional 4-H Camp held here at Tennessee State College.

The 120 camp delegates from 17 Southern and Border States were first challenged by Dr. W. S. Davis, president of the college here, who welcomed the clubbers. Said he to the representatives of the Nation's 315,000 colored 4-H'ers, "As first rate farm boys and girls, you cannot afford to attend second class schools to get second rate training to become second class farmers."

A second challenge came from Dr. Harry V. Richardson, president of Gammon Theological Seminary. Speaking on the camp theme—"Better Living for a Better World"—he told the 4-H'ers that they could begin making a better world by helping to improve their own homes and farms.

Emphasizing the importance of agriculture, Dr. Richardson added, "You are preparing yourselves to make the most significant contribution of any group to the economic advancement of Negro Americans. Unlike many other occupations," he said, "farming creates new wealth and makes the world richer."

Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, president of Arkansas State College, urged the 4-H'ers to help find solutions to the economic and racial problems of their region, as well as to the knotty farm problems of the Nation.

"You cannot contribute to the welfare of the Nation without contributing to your own welfare," Dr. Davis asserted. Then he challenged the group to find their supreme opportunity in the needs of the people.

The importance of a balanced diet and of good health habits were stressed by Miss Patsy Graves of the Farmers' Home Ad-

ministration, Washington, D. C., and by Dr. Thomas A. LaSaine of Meharry Medical College.

Other persons who made brief talks during the encampment were: H. H. Williamson, Assistant Director of Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; R. W. Moore, vice director of the Tennessee State Extension Service; A. H. Fuhr of the Farm Credit Administration, D. Charles S. Morris, a minister of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Mrs. E. A. Selby of the African Methodist Episcopal Sunday School Union.

The 4-H agents in attendance at the camp were addressed by L. I. Jones, director of the Mississippi State Extension Service, and by Dr. E. H. Shinn, 4-H field agent of the Southern States.

Following each address, the clubbers formed discussion groups and discussed ways by which the messages might be applied. At the closing session, the youths summarized the discussions and made some constructive suggestions for next year's camp.

Other highlights of the encampment were a nation-wide broadcast by 4-H'ers over the ABC network, a broadcast on WSM's "Noontime Neighbors," and sightseeing tours of the State capitol here, Fisk university, Meharry medical colleges, three Negro publishing houses, an Air Force Base, the Heraitage, home of Andrew Jackson, the Parthenon, a replica of the celebrated Greek temple, and the Children's Museum.

Also, the youngsters conducted a "talent night," picnicked, romped, played, and swam. In charge of camp activities were: John W. Mitchell and T. M. Campbell, field agents; W. H. Williamson and Miss Bessie Walton of the Tennessee State Extension Service, and G. C. Cypress, Mississippi State 4-H leader.

The state delegations were as

follows:—

Alabama: Thomas R. Agnew and Miss Norine Laye, leaders; Donald Brewton, Rufus Felton, Herbert Scales, Elmer Dowdell, Merque Allen, Audrey McKelvy, Ethel Green and Dollye Crawford, 4-H delegates.

Arkansas: L. L. Phillips and Mrs. Ella P. Neely, leaders; Aldridge Winfrey, Willie Brown, Alvin Terry, Velma Lee Hicks, Roberta Tyson and Zenobia Robinson, 4-H delegates.

Delaware: Miss Camille W. Jacobs, leader; Bessie Evans and Margaret Scott, 4-H delegates.

Florida: J. A. Gresham and Mrs. Sudella J. Ford, leaders; Merle Jacob Davis, Nelson Morris, Jr., A. J. Murray, Jr., Tommie Hudson, Marjorie Williams, LaFlorence Roach, Doris Joann Jackson, Jennie Dell Cunningham, Jennie Lee Hogan, and Hansel Washington, 4-H delegates.

Georgia: Augustus Hill and Miss Camilla Weems, leaders; Johnnie W. Fambro, Charles Logan, Ulysses Pullam, Jr., Daniel Williams, Jr., Delores Robinson, Johnnie Mae Street, Evelyn Atkinson, Bobbie Smothers, 4-H delegates.

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Charles Edwards, Vernon Young, Erma Tate, Zenobia Davis, Neeley Bell Jackson and Shirley Ar-brought, 4-H delegates.

South Carolina: Wayman Johnson and Mrs. Cammie Fludd, leaders; John D. Berry, Paul Davis, David McMillian, Allen Boyd, Mildred Means, Cogie Lee Dudley, Le-ella Mae Duncan and Carolyn Wash-ington, 4-H delegates.

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Texas: M. V. Brower and Mrs. J. O. A. Conner, leaders; J. B. Collins, Henry Francis, Edward Victor Hill, Billy Culton, Lottie Mae Smith, Helen Ruth Ervin, Celestine O. Sanders and Barbara Hines, 4-H delegates.

Virginia: Ross W. Newsome and Mrs. Blanche Harrison, leaders; Oliver Washington, Edwin Collins, Allen Boykins, Raymond Lacy, Carrie Braxton, Nannie E. Venable, Fannie E. Wattis and Josephine Jones, 4-H delegates.

West Virginia: L. A. Toney and Mrs. Julia H. Lowery, leaders; Maxwell H. Bland and Bernice F. Grantham, 4-H delegates.

## Regional Session Draws Campers From 17 States

Farming Creates New Wealth, Enrich

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Colored contribution of any group to the economic advancement of colored 4-H'ers were challenged last week. Unlike many other to play an important part in trans-occupations, farming creates new forming the rural life in the wealth and makes the world South by speakers at the second richer."

annual regional 4-H Camp held at Tennessee State College. The 120 delegates from Southern and Border States, representing 315,000 clubbers, were and racial problems of their re- Davis, president of the college, farm problems of the nation. "As first-rate farm boys and diet and of good health habits girls, you cannot afford to attend were stressed by Miss Patsy second-class schools to get sec- Graves of the Farmers' Home on-class training to become sec- Dr. Thomas A. LaSaine of Me- on-class farmers."

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# Challenge 4-H'ers

## Regional Session Draws Campers From 17 States

8-13-49  
Farming Creates New Wealth, Enriches World, Educator Tells 120 Delegates

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Virginia: Ross W. Newsome and Mrs. Blanche Harrison, leaders; Oliver Washington, Edwin Collins, Allen Boykins, Raymond Lacy, Carrie Braxton, Nannie E. Venable, Fannie E. Wattie, and Josephine Jones, 4-H delegates.

West Virginia: L. A. Toney and Mrs. Julia H. Lowery, leaders; Maxwell H. Bland and Bernice E. Grant, 4-H delegates.

Mississippi: G. C. Cypress and Mrs. Dollye H. Hunt, leaders; Edna Young, Herbert Wright, Hermon L. Knox, Randolph Raybon, Valley R. Harvey, Annie C. Braugher, Anna I. Moore and Evelyn Clark, 4-H delegates.

Carolinias and Oklahoma  
Missouri: C. E. Tellis, leader; Charles Wilson, Fred Braswell, Alma Welch, and Mary Bradford, 4-H delegates.

North Carolina: W. C. Cooper and Mrs. Ruby C. Carraway, leaders; Raymond Boddie, Eddie Watford, Claude Dunston, Raphael Cuthberton, Rufus Kelly, Henry L. Swimpson, Norman Stroud, Mildred Ross, Ruby Massey, Margie R. Gay, Pearl G. Carr, Cora G. Harris, Otha G. Jones, and Susie Moore, 4-H delegates.

Oklahoma: Paul O. Brooks and Mrs. Helen M. Hewlett, leaders; Eugene M. Hutton, Syvertic King, Charles Edwards, Vernon Young, Erma Tate, Zenobia Davis, Neeley B. Jackson, and Shirley Arbrough, 4-H delegates.

South Carolina: Wayman Johnson and Mrs. Cammie Fludd, leaders; John D. Berry, Paul Davis, David McMillian, Allen Boyd, Mildred Means, Cogie L. Dudley, Lela M. Duncan, and Carolyn Washington, 4-H delegates.

Tennessee: W. H. Williamson and Miss Bessie L. Walton, leaders; Samuel R. English, Willie J. Harris, Anderson Knox, David Ward, Priscilla J. Smith, Ida L. Brown, Arline Beecham, and Sadie M. Terry, 4-H delegates.

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# Entertainment And Hospitality Were Profuse Here For These Representatives From 17 States—Piloted By Motorcycle Police

Young People Shown Points of Interest Such as Publishing Houses, Banks and Business Institutions, Colleges, Universities, and a Six-foot Three-inch Bronze Statue of one of the Race's Leading Builders

Members of the 4-H Club Camps from seventeen different states invaded this capital city, this religious headquarters and this educational center, for their Second Regional 4-H Club camp. The scene of the meeting was the Agricultural and Industrial College of Nashville. The dates were July 28th to August 2nd. The theme for the week was "Better Living for a Better World." This entire movement was sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service.

The meeting had been worked up for many months. One of the active workers who left no stone unturned in her solicitation for cooperation, was Miss Bessie Walton, assistant state agent in Negro Home and Administration Work. The committee appointed by the Southern Directors of Extension to organize the Second Regional 4-H Club Camp for Negro Club members is as follows:

P. O. Davis, Chairman, Director of Extension, Alabama; John W. Mitchell, Field Agent, Hampton, Va.; T. M. Campbell, Field Agent, Tuskegee, Ala.; Marian Paul, District Agent, South Carolina; L. B. Dietrick, Director of Extension, Virginia; A. D. Gates, Associate Director of Extension, Virginia; Mena Hogan, Field Agent, Washington, D. C.; L. R. Harrill, State Club Leader, North Carolina; Erwin H. Shinn, 4-H Club Work, Southern States, Washington, D. C.; Charles A. Sheffield, Field Agent, Washington, D. C., Secretary.

The Program Committee consists of Erwin H. Shinn, Chairman, John W. Mitchell, T. M. Campbell, Bessie Walton, P. H. Stone, L. R. Harrill, Mena Hogan, with the other committees. The program was attractively printed, with a cover page that was in keeping with the occasion. The back of it carried the National 4-H Club Creed, and at the bottom there was a 4-H Club Pledge. It also contains the names of cities as well as the states which sent representatives of boys and girls. They came from as far west as Texas and Arkansas, as

far east as Virginia, as far south as Florida and Louisiana. The program also carries the counties from which these children were chosen. It paid its respects to and gave the names of those who were responsible for the execution of the program.

Business men and business organizations contributed cash for the buses from the Southern Coach Lines that transported these children from place to place. In downtown Nashville they visited the Sunday School Publishing Board on Fourth and Charlotte Avenue, of which Rev. A. M. Townsend, D. D., is the secretary. They visited and went through the Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company, which is located in the Colored Y. M. C. A. They were met there by the president, Henry A. Boyd, the executive vice-president, M. G. Ferguson, the cashier, Miss H. L. Jordan, and were greeted by the employees of the bank. They visited the National Baptist Publishing Board at Second Avenue and Locust Street. The long line of children, their instructors, their chaperons entered the front of the building where they were greeted by the entire office force, and were directed through the alcove where stands the six-foot, three-inch bronze statue of the late Dr. H. Boyd. Some of the children had never seen a life-size statue of a member of their race.

They were then carried hurriedly through the plant, after which they boarded the buses. They went to the state capitol grounds, they saw the pride of the state in architecture; in fact, they spent a whole week, when out of session, seeing Nashville as it is. They were the recipients of many social courtesies. Men and women welcomed them everywhere.

On Sunday afternoon the Sunday School Congress Band that has played from the Atlantic to the Gulf, was detailed by Secretary Boyd to give them one hour of sacred concert on A. and I. State college Campus.

Officials in charge of the 4-H Club Work are Hon. Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture; L. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work; H. W. Hochbaum, Chief, Division of Field Coordination; T. M. Campbell, Field Agent for Negro Work, U. S. D. A., Tuskegee, Alabama; J. W. Mitchell, Field Agent for Negro Work, U. S. D. A., Hampton Institute, Va.

The Federal 4-H Club Staff, Division of Field Coordination consists of Erwin H. Shinn, Field Agent for 4-H Club Work, Southern Region; R. A. Turner, Field Agent for 4-H Club Work, Central Region; E. W. Alton, Field Agent for 4-H Club Work, North Atlantic Region; James M. Gray, Field Agent for 4-H Club Work, Western Region; Gertrude L. Warren, Organization 4-H Club Work; W. G. Brannan, Administrative Assistant, 4-H Club Work.

## NEGRO 4-H BOYS SEE STATE WOODS

(Special to The Times-Picayune)  
State College, Miss., Nov. 30 — Twelve Negro 4-H Club boys, winners in the 1949 woodland improvement contest, are making a 350-mile educational tour this week, according to J. S. Therrell, extension forester.

Each of the 325 boys enrolled in this contest carried out stand improvement practices on at least one acre. Five of the 12 winners have been winners for the past 3 years, Therrell said.

Club boys making the tour are Johnnie Phair Jr. and Jerry Roberson, Oktibbeha county; Zebadiah Harrington, Winston county; Earl Woodland and Edward Woodland, Holmes county; L. J. Williams, Washington county.

Robert Wilson and Eddie McQuarter, Lauderdale county; Curtis Evans, Newton county; Roosevelt Booth, Jeff Davis county; Hollis Williams and David Bush, Pike county.

The tour includes visits to Jackson, Meridian, Tuscaloosa, Chattanooga, Atlanta and Tuskegee, Ala.

S. A. Robert, representing the G. M. & O. railroad which sponsored the project, donated \$1000 in prizes plus the tour in promoting improved woodland practices among Negro 4-H Club boys.



# *Chicago, Dec. 12-14-49.* **Farm Kids From Alabama Look In On Lily-White 4-H Show In Chicago**

A dozen colored 4-H club boys and a delegation of seven of the better farmers of Madison and Lauderdale counties in Alabama, flanked by two farm agents and a home demonstration agent, were enthusiastic visitors to Chicago last week.

The group, led by Warren Q. Scott and C. G. Leslie, county agents, and Miss Ethelyne Harris, home agent, came to attend the International Live Stock show and 4-H Club congress. They came as unofficial visitors but the trip planted the seed which will result in more active participation in the near future, the member of the group suggested.

Thus far the southern states which for the most part are the only states where there are any number of Negro farm boys and girls enrolled in 4-H club work have not seen fit to extend to Negro boys and girls the privilege to participate in the Chicago meets.

Negro leaders in some of the states admit that their work has not progressed far enough to compete but there are other states where 4-H club work among Negro boys and girls is of a very high order and it is hoped that there will be representations from some of these states this coming year. If it is not done officially, there will be a goodly number of boys and girls there as observers the first year and as participants later.

National club officials in Chicago have expressed interest in wider participation on the part of colored boys and girls.

Among the farmers and boys in the delegation were: Frank Jacobs, John Bulls, Raymond Bulls, Clayborn Webster, Ned Edgerton, N. D. Fitchard; and 4H-ers Joe Eddie Parker, Sidney Joiner, James Friend, Charlie Lacy, Carl Moore, Julius Ford, Wilbert Shenault and Richard Moore.

County Agent Warren Scott says that in Madison and Lauderdale counties in Alabama, they have two of the best agricultural areas of the state. He points to one farmer in his county who last year crossed \$55,000.



## GRO 4-8 CLUB BOYS GET FORESTRY PRIZES

*Memphis, Tenn.*  
Shelby County Achievement

Day Awards Given

*The Commercial Appeal*  
For the outstanding records they made in farm forestry last year, five Shelby County 4-H Club negro boys yesterday were awarded cash prizes totaling \$65 at the annual 4-H Club Achievement Day program at Shelby County Training School, *Memphis, Tenn.*

The prizes, presented by Judd Brooks, district extension agent of Jackson, on behalf of the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad, went to Willie Joe Harris of Lucy, who received \$35; Wilbert Boyd of Lucy, \$10; Caldwell Smith of Arlington, \$10; Henry Dell Adams of Locke, \$5, and Willie James Harris of Lucy, \$5. *2-4-49*

Dorothy Harris of Lucy received a \$25 Savings Bond as the district winner in fire prevention work. Georgia V. Harris of Woodstock and Toney Gray of Brunswick each received \$10 cash prizes as district winners in the poultry contest. *The Commercial Appeal*

For his championship corn demonstration project, Erman Porter received \$21 worth of fertilizer and a peck of hybrid seed corn. He produced 76 bushels of corn on an acre last year. *Memphis, Tenn.*

Other Shelby County club members given recognition were Charles Pinkston of Cordova, who produced the grand champion pig at the Fall Fat Pig Show; Shaler Shaw of Arlington, who produced the reserve champion pig, and Charles Ingram of Germantown, who produced the grand champion fat steer shown at the Colored Tri-State Fair. *2-4-49*

The program was in charge of Ernest Brazzle, Shelby County negro extension agent. Speakers included County Agent L. J. Kerr, Paul Rose, agricultural agent for the G. M. & O.; W. F. Mitchell, vice president of Lowenstein's, and Prof. R. J. Roddy, school principal.

*Arkansas Youth*  
Notes \$3,030 Profits

By JAMES P. DAVIS  
MARIANNA, Ark. (AP) — Willie Brown, 17-year-old member of the St. John 4-H club, has made a profit of \$3,030.50 in his five years as a 4-H club worker, a profit which he is saving to send himself through college in order to receive an agriculture degree. Not

only that, Willie has been sending himself to school on the merit of his 4-H work, attended state camp for the past three years, bought all of his clothing, camp uniforms and financed all his demonstrations.

His first year's work was centered around corn and peanuts. His one-acre corn was caught in the drought, but he managed to produce 33 bushels of corn valued at \$66 and 24 bushels of peanuts, \$44. From two acres the second year, he received \$614.80; the third year, \$876.27; the fourth, a gross of \$1,137 and net of \$817.43. Gross for the fifth year was \$1,273.86 and net, \$917.58. His hybrid corn won second place in last year's Lee county fair.

## Morgan County 4-H Club

### Wins \$50.00 Prize

*Atlanta Daily World*  
Springfield 4-H Club of the Springfield community was awarded \$50.00 and a place in the Statewide Community Improvement Contest. This award was part of the \$500.00 prize given by the ATLANTA JOURNAL

to promote community improvement in Negro 4-H Club work. F. W. Caudle, Negro County Agent, on his return from the Annual Agents Conference held at Georgia State College, informed the Springfield club members of the award at general assembly of school and club.

Factors determining prize winners were: Percentage of available boys and girls enrolled in club, number of projects carried and number of projects completed, number of project books turned in, number of homes improved as a result of the club program, number of churches and grounds improved, number of schools improved, number of health activities sponsored, number of club members on County Council, number of members attending county and state short courses, number of active club advisors, number of community group meetings held and keeping a record of what was done.

Annie Beular Harris, club secretary, played an important part in winning the award in that she kept a record of club meetings and other club activities. Rev. L. H. Stinson, Club advisor, principal and pastor of the community, worked with the club members and county agent putting the club program over in the community.

The ATLANTA JOURNAL is sponsoring a banquet and the prizes will be awarded clubs at this banquet to be held January 14th at Macon, Georgia. F. W. Caudle will take the club advisor, two club members and one other person helping with the club program. The Springfield club-

sters have already pledged themselves to live up to the 4-H Club motto, "TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER." *Jan-1-49*

Mrs. J. C. Lawrence, Reporter.

## Youths Earning \$80,000 On Farms Will Attend 4-H Camp

*Journal Guide*  
*Richmond, Va.*  
WASHINGTON, D. C.—The 110 colored farm boys and girls who are delegates to the second annual regional 4-H Club camp have completed over 1,300 agricultural and homemaking projects which have brought nearly \$80,000 in earnings, reports John W. Mitchell, U. S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service field agent and camp director. *Feb. 7-23-49*

The camp will be held July 26-August 2 at Tennessee State College, Nashville, Tenn. Delegates will come from 16 southern states as representatives of the nation's 315,000 Negro 4-H'ers. They have been selected on the basis of their agricultural and homemaking projects.

These projects consist mainly of raising livestock, poultry, gardens, and field crops, of carrying out soil and water conservation work, of canning, and making of clothing. The products resulting from the projects are either consumed at home or sold.

### COMPLETED 28 PROJECTS

For example, J. B. Collins, who lives near Austin, Texas, has completed 28 projects and earned more than \$4,000 during the last seven years. Zenobia Robinson of Earle, Ark., has completed 22 projects since 1934, earning and helping to save on family expenses to the extent of \$1,275.

In some instances, says Mr. Mitchell, the 4-H delegates have not completed a spectacular number of projects, or netted large cash earnings, but the products they have raised, the garments made, and the home improvements carried out have resulted in better diets, better clothing, and better living for the whole family.

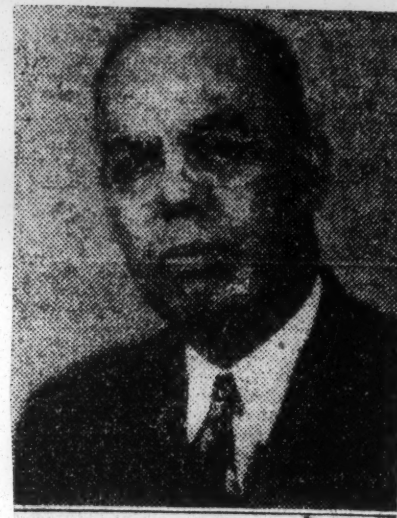
He points to Ida Louise Brown, 16-year-old daughter of an Atoka, Tenn. sharecropper family, who has been raising chickens, and carrying out sewing projects ever since she became a 4-H'er six years ago.

### HOW MONEY USED

"The money saved, as well as the money earned," she says, "has been used to help me go to high school, and to help my parents and my sisters and brothers." And she adds, "My parents are sharecroppers, our family is large, and sometimes the crops haven't turned out well."

Ida Louise, who will be one of the eight delegates from Tennessee, has completed 12 projects. She has raised and sold or kept for home use close to 400 chickens during the last four years. Also, says Mr. Mitchell, she has made nice "Sunday" dresses out of feed sacks.

Pointing to these and other examples, the camp director declares that a new crop of Negro



JOHN W. MITCHELL

farmers and homemakers is being reared in the South partly as a result of 4-H club work. Boys and girls, he says, are learning to buy and sell livestock, and to raise and field crops at a profit.

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Tennessee, has completed 12 projects. She has raised and sold or kept for home use close to 400 chickens during the last four years. Also, she has made "Sunday" dresses out of feed sacks. Pointing to these and other examples, the Dept. of Agriculture says a new crop of Negro farmers and homemakers is being reared in

## Negro 4-H kids' convention; projects earn \$80,000

*Memphis, Tenn.*  
NASHVILLE—One hundred and 10 Negro farm boys and girls who completed 28 projects and earned more than \$4,000 during the last seven years. Zenobia Robinson of Earle, Arkansas, has completed 22 projects since 1934, earning and helping to save on family expenses to the extent of \$1,275.

In some instances, says Mr. Mitchell, the 4-H delegates have not completed a spectacular number of projects, or netted large cash earnings, but the products they have raised, the garments made, and the home improvements carried out have resulted in better diets, better clothing, and better living for the whole family. *Feb. 7-23-49*

Ida Louise Brown, 16, who will be one of the 8 delegates from the South partly as a result of 4-H Tennessee, has completed 12 projects. She has raised and sold or kept for home use close to 400 chickens during the last four years. Also, she has made "Sunday" dresses out of feed sacks. Pointing to these and other examples, the Dept. of Agriculture says a new crop of Negro farmers and homemakers is being reared in



# 4-H Delegates Earn \$80,000 in Projects

*The Courier-Pittsburgh, Pa.*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The 110 Negro farm boys and girls who are delegates to the second annual Regional 4-H Club Camp have completed over 1,300 agricultural and homemaking projects which have brought nearly \$80,000 in earnings, reports John W. Mitchell, U. S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service field agent and camp director. *7-16-49*

The camp will be held July 26-Aug. 2 at Tennessee State College, Nashville, Tenn. Delegates will come from sixteen Southern States as representatives of the Nation's 15,000 Negro 4-H'ers. They have been selected on the basis of their agricultural and homemaking projects. These projects consist mainly of raising livestock, poultry, gardens, and field crops, of carrying out soil and water conservation work, of canning and of making clothes. The products resulting from the projects are either consumed at home or sold.

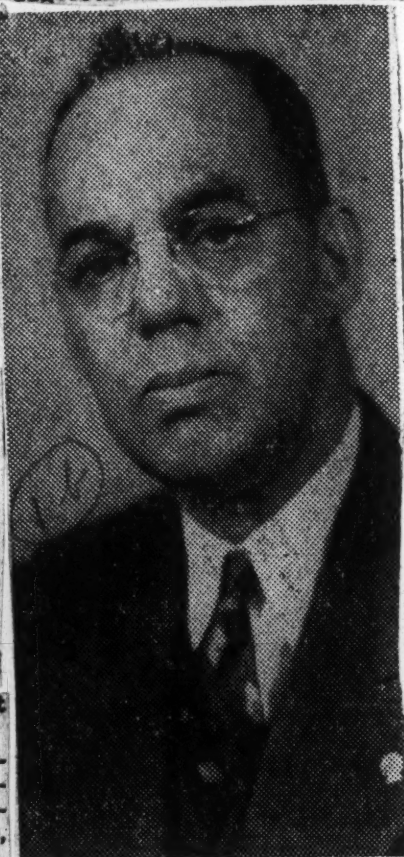
## COMPLETES 28 PROJECTS

For example, *7-16-49* J. B. Collins, who lives near Austin, Tex., has completed twenty-eight projects and earned more than \$4,000 during the last seven years. And Zenobia Robinson of Earle, Ark., has completed twenty-two projects since 1943, earning and helping to save on family expenses to the extent of \$1,275.

In some instances, says Mr. Mitchell, the 4-H delegates have not completed a spectacular number of projects, or netted large cash earnings, but the products they have raised, the garments made and the home improvements carried out have resulted in better diets, better clothing and better living for the whole family. *7-16-49*

He points to Ida Louise Brown, 16-year-old daughter of an Atoka, Tenn., sharecropper family, who has been raising chickens, and carrying out sewing projects ever since she became a 4-H'er six years ago.

Pointing to these and other examples, the camp director declares that a new crop of Negro farmers and homemakers is being reared in the South partly as a result of 4-H club work. Boys and girls, he says, are learning to buy and sell livestock and to raise and market poultry, vegetables and field crops at a profit.



Director — John W. Mitchell, Extension Service field agent and director of the second annual regional 4-H Club Camp which will be held July 26-Aug. 2 at Tennessee State College, Nashville, Tenn. — USDA Photo.



## Negro Farmers Helping To Create New Agricultural Pattern In South

BY SHERMAN BRISCOE

While cotton is still one of the main cash crops of Negro farmers in the South, it is no longer the only thing they grow for market.

A catalog of their products now shows a variety of agricultural commodities from grass seed, acres of truck crops, poultry, and livestock to timber, tung oil, and turpentine.

The main trend seems to be away from row crops to grasses and livestock. Three factors seem to account for the shift in this direction: (1) Farmers have observed the success of their 4-H boys and girls with their pigs and calves at livestock shows, (2) they have been encouraged by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to retire some of their eroded and worn out land to pastures, and (3) many small packing houses and milk processing plants have sprung up in the South.

A farmer no longer wonders whether or not he can sell a hog, a steer, or a hundred pounds of milk. He can take his animals to the packing house any month of the year; and his milk for the creamery is picked up at his gate.

During the last three weeks I have traveled over a large part of the farming areas of eight Southern States — Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas — where I have observed the transition first-hand.

Colored farmers, like the other farmers of the region, are creating a new pattern of agriculture. They call it balanced farming or diversification.

The other day, I talked with Myrt M. Coney who owns 600 acres near Magnolia, Mississippi. He used to count on cotton for his cash. I asked him what products he was selling now. He began to add up. There were 70 acres of corn, 25 acres of oats, 15 acres in peaches, pears, and pecans, six acres of sugarcane, 300 acres in woodland and pasture, and only 35 in cotton.

Checking his gross income, he put down \$7,000 from timber, \$2,000 from pears, \$2,000 from cane syrup, \$2,500 from beef cattle, \$500 from pecans, \$1,000 from 1,000 broilers; next year, he plans to raise and sell 10,000 head; also, he is expanding his livestock enterprise, but cutting his cotton acreage.

In Georgia, James L. Reese told me that 18 acres of Blue Lupine from which he sold 19 tons of seed were going to tide him over in face of huge losses from his cotton crop which bad weather and boll weevils destroyed. Blue Lupine is an important soil building crop in the South.

Rubin Gilley, soil conservation champion of Florida, gave me a half dozen oranges from his grove. He told me how he bought 40 acres that nobody else wanted in 1938. By terracing the land and improving it with soil building crops, it now produces 45 bushel of corn per acre. He had added another 40 acres and is grossing close to 53,500.

In Alabama, I spent a night in the home of Carroll Jones, who has shifted almost completely from cotton to cattle. He maintains a herd of about 450 head. His home

is as modern as any city residence — butane gas heat, hot and cold running water, and electric refrigerator and a 30 cubic foot deep freeze unit packed with steaks, pork loins, broilers, fryers, fruits and vegetables.

In Texas, I visited Hulen T. Rigsby, Sr., a farmer who is breeding dairy cattle. He and his two sons sell purebred registered Jerseys. The import their foundation stock from Canada and the Isle of Jersey. Two months ago, they sold 22 purebred calves for \$11,000.

Elton James, a sharecropper of Louisiana, exhibited the best basket of sweet potatoes displayed at the fabulous State Yambilee where 'Miss America' was the honored guest two weeks ago. "I hope to buy a place soon," he said to me.

In Oklahoma, I met Elmer Robinson, a wheat farmer whom the Farmers Home Administration helped to get on his feet. "Eight years ago, I didn't have a thing but these," he said, holding out his rough, knobby hands.

Then with a sweeping gesture, he pointed to his home with an electric stove, to his tractor, barns, and electric pump. His two children Valeria and Wilbur walked away with top prizes for pigs and lambs at the State livestock show in October.

William L. Collins of Tennessee told me that he was a tobacco sharecropper 20 years ago. Today, he owns 531 acres 97 milk cows that bring him close to \$1,000 a month, 85 hogs, three tractors, and a combine.

In central Texas, I met hard working, land hungry Raymond Culton, who scrimped and saved for 15 years to buy a farm of his own. It was late one Saturday afternoon when we visited him. No one was home. We thought they were in town shopping. Later, we found Mr. and Mrs. Culton and their seven children picking out the 42nd bale of cotton off 40 acres that three years ago wouldn't yield half a bale to the acre. "I halted erosion with terraces, and built up my land with peas and vetch," he said proudly.

Basic to the Negro farmer's progress toward ownership has been his live-at-home program which his Extension agents have helped him to devise. One farmer told me that he hadn't bought but 30 cents worth of salt meat in 11 years. And a glimpse at the kitchen pantry will usually reveal scores of jars of home-canned foods — fruits, vegetables, and meats.

It is everywhere evident that Negro farmers are working hard and intelligently to increase their income and raise their level of living. And with the help of the county farm and home agents, they are keeping abreast of modern agricultural know-how and technology. Bright new tractors are rapidly replacing mule-power, and such soil building crops as Austrian Winter peas, Blue Lupine, vetch, rye grass, and crotalaria, and such permanent pasture grasses as as Ladino Clover, lespedeza, and Kentucky rescue have become household words.

Definitely, the farm-side of the South is moving ahead. But the farm home, except in a few rare instances, is lagging far behind. Good homes with modern conveniences are to be found only as tiny islands in a sea of unsatisfactory housing. One day, I traveled through the Black Belt of Alabama. During



## FARM STORY

# Government agent surveys Negro farming in 8 states

By SHERMAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON—As information specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, I have just returned from a three-week tour of some of the farming areas of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

During the tour, I interviewed close to 50 successful colored farmers and 4-H'ers who are carrying out improved agricultural practices as a result of Extension demonstration work.

Following is a brief overall summary of my observations.

While cotton is still one of the main cash crops of Negro farmers in the south, it is no longer the only thing they grow for market.

A catalog of their products now shows a variety of agricultural commodities from grass seed, acres of truck crops, poultry, and livestock to timber, tung oil, and turpentine.

The main trend seems to be away from row crops to grasses and livestock. Three factors seem to account for the shift in this direction: (1) Farmers have observed the success of their 4-H boys and girls with their pigs and calves at livestock shows, (2) they have been encouraged by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to retire some of their eroded and worn out land to pastures, and (3) many small packing houses and milk processing plants have sprung up in the south.

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Basic to the Negro farmer's progress toward ownership has been his live-at-home program which his Extension agents have helped him to devise. One farmer told me that he hadn't bought but 30 cents worth of salt meat in 11 years. And a glimpse at the kitchen pantry will usually reveal scores of jars of home-canned foods—fruits, vegetables, and meats.

Definitely, the farm-side of the South is moving ahead. But the farm home, except in a few rare instances, is lagging far behind. Good homes with modern conveniences are to be found only as tiny islands in a sea of unsatisfactory housing. One day, I traveled 175 miles across the Black Belt of Alabama. During the whole distance, I saw less than a dozen Negro farm homes with such elemental appointments as window sashes.

It seems to me that the era of one-crop farming is largely over in the South. White and colored farmers are creating a new pattern of agriculture—one with more milk and meat in it. I believe that this augurs a considerably higher standard of living in the region.

## Tuskegee Official Tours Farms, Reports to FCA

WASHINGTON—Farmers are being aided by the Farm Credit Administration in holding on to their land and in increasing their net worth, says Albon L. Holsey, assistant to the president of Tuskegee Institute.

Mr. Holsey made this observation in a report which he submitted recently to I. W. Duggan, Governor of Farm Credit, following a tour of farms in Louisiana and Mississippi.

### GOVERNOR'S REQUEST

The tour was made by Mr. Mr. Holsey at the request of Governor Duggan for the purpose of finding out the extent of Negro participation in the credit services of the agencies supervised by FCA.

During the tour, Mr. Holsey conferred with Federal Land Bank and Production Credit Association officials, and visited several farm families.

Near Alexandria, La., he visited the 118-acre farm of Elijah Moore, who has been able to hold on to his land largely as a result of credit assistance he has received from his Production Credit Association.

### TWO DEAD MULES

In 1942, two successive crop failures, the death of two of his mules, and a mortgage on his farm had

### OWN HAY BALER

Today, he and his son own 770 acres. Last year, they harvested 300 tons of hay, 800 bushels of corn, and 101 bales of cotton. They own twenty-two head of workstock, two tractors, two trucks, and a hay baler.

In concluding his report, Mr. Holsey says that the Federal Land Banks and the Production Credit Association are a great help to farmers. These agencies, he states, have assisted many farmers in need of sound credit aid based upon collateral and ability to repay.

In addition to Mr. Holsey, FCA has a full-time Negro administrative officer, A. H. Fuhr, who spends a large part of his time in the field helping to acquaint farmers with the credit services available through the agencies supervised by Farm Credit.

Another Louisiana colored farmer, George Figgins, was about to lose his farm a few years back when he shifted from cotton to potatoes with disastrous results. In other years he had demonstrated his ability as a successful farmer so his PCA extended his additional credit, enabling him to hang on to his land, return to cotton, and pay off his debts.

In Mississippi, Mr. Holsey visited a father and son team, Will Walker Sr. and Jr., whose net worth now exceeds \$50,000. The elder Walker started out as a tenant farmer after dropping out of Morehouse College. He skimmed and saved up to buy a farm of his own. Finally, with the aid of a Federal Land Bank, he bought 300 acres near Tupelo.



STARTED WITH 'PIECE OF MULE:'

# Once Tenant Farmer, Now Grosses \$11,000

STATESBORO, Ga. — Robert L. Lee, \$11,000-a-year farmer, who owns 430 acres near here, had a hard time getting started in farming. "Only my determination, help from my county agent and a few sideline jobs kept me and my family going 'til we got on our feet," says Mr. Lee, owner of one of this State's most highly diversified farms.

His cropping program now includes cattle, hogs, peanuts, corn, pecans, tobacco, turpentine, timber, truck crops and cotton. They have increased their land. Today, they own 431 acres. Improved soil and water conservation practices have increased markedly their yield of peanuts, corn, tobacco, and truck crops.

"But this is my last year in cotton," Mr. Lee states. "You know, cotton takes a lot of work; my children are growing up now and are going on their own. So I think I had better get into something I can handle mostly myself." Receipts from crops, including 100 hogs and a few head of cattle totaled about \$11,000 last year. Four years ago, they remodeled their home. Morris M. Martin, the county agent, supplied them with plans, and offered helpful suggestions. Mr. Martin has been an agent in Bulloch county since 1944. He has organized 9 farmer clubs and 20 4-H clubs.

## His Mule Drops Dead

It was in 1930 that Mr. Lee first tried his hand at operating a farm. He started out as a tenant with 20 acres and a piece of a mule. His first crop—cotton and corn—brought him only \$125.

However, he planned to continue and was ready to plant when his mule dropped dead. With no mule, he couldn't make a crop. So he took his family to Florida to harvest truck crops.

Two years later, the Lees returned to Statesboro in a Model T which they sold to make the down-payment on three mules. "I rented 65 acres of cotton land, and went into debt to buy feed for my mules and food for my family," says Mr. Lee.

## Made It This Time

In order to get enough money to buy Sunday clothes and pay church dues, he worked part-time as a chipper in a turpentine forest.

When his cotton was ginned, there were 12 bales. He paid off his debts and paid down on a truck which he used to haul fuel and to town.

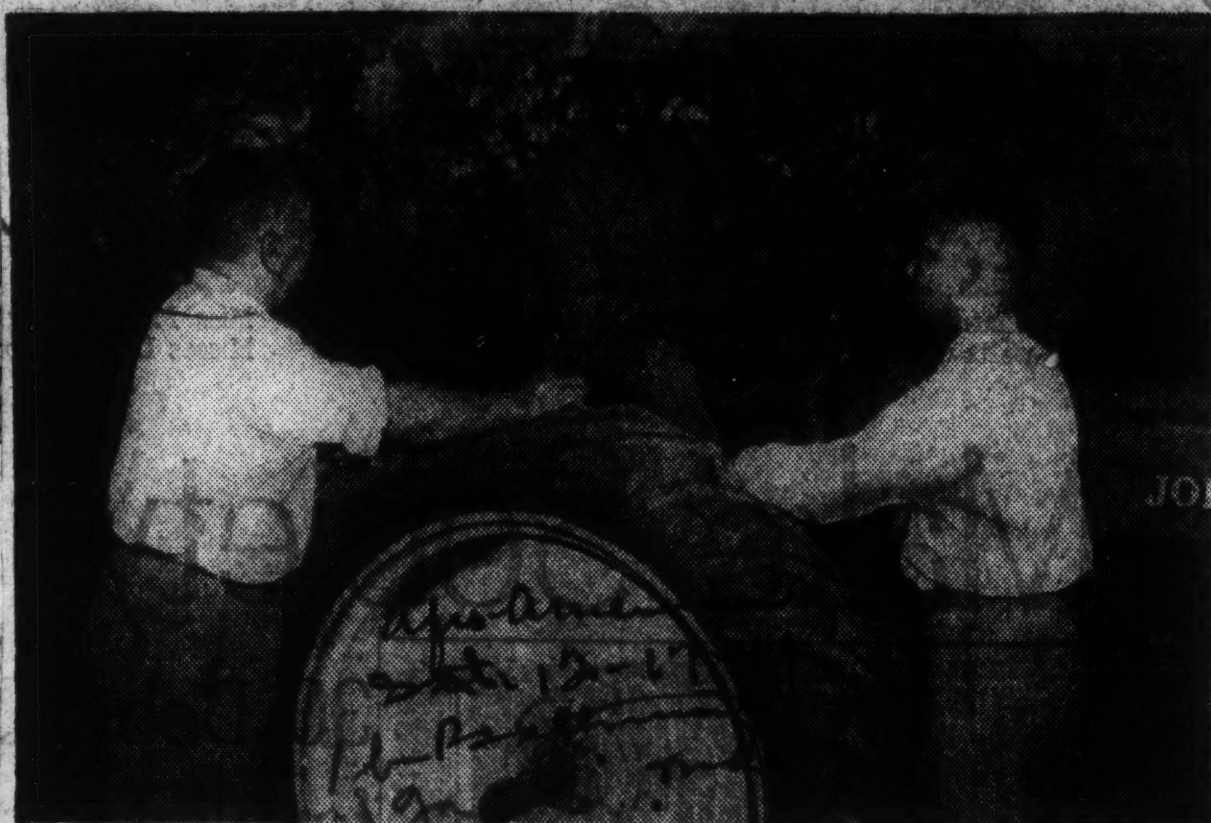
In 1937, the Lees were able to pay \$500 down on 202 acres of run-down, eroded land. With the help of his county agent and Soil Conservation Service, they halted erosion, healed the gullies and increased the productivity of their farm.

## Pecan Trees Bring \$3,000

They set 300 pecan trees, most of which are now bearing fruit. During good years, their pecans bring close to \$3,000.

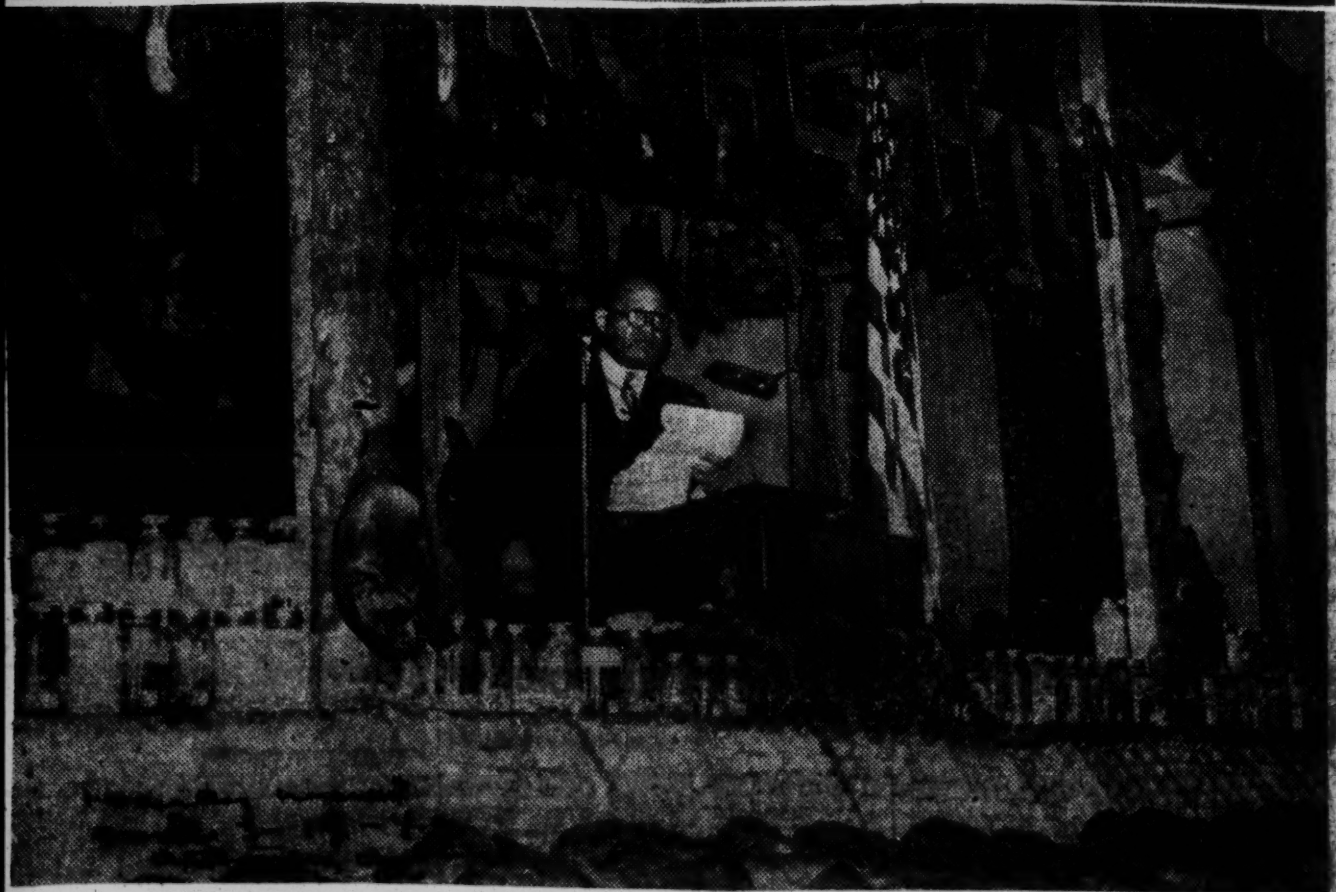
Little by little, Mr. Lee and his

## Farmer Confers With Extension Leaders



Robert L. Lee, center, a farmer of Statesboro, Ga., is shown conferring with P. H. Stone, left, State Extension supervisor, and his assistant, A. S. Bacon. Mr. Lee started out 20 years ago as a tenant farmer with a "piece of a mule." Now he owns two tractors and 430 acres of land. In the background is part of his 300-tree pecan orchard.





## Middle Georgia Prosperity Linked To Ham And Egg Show

By MARION E. JACKSON  
FORT VALLEY, Ga. — (SNS) —  
No success story in the annals of Georgia agriculture equals that of the 34th Annual Ham and Egg Show which closed Saturday at Fort Valley State College.

For the remarkable farm event is tied in with the transition and growth of Middle Georgia from a one-crop economy to the plenty and varied productivity of farm work in 1949.

Years ago when Otis S. O'Neal, deluxe farm agent, came to Georgia the area surrounding Fort Valley State College was impoverished and in despair because of poor crops, the pangs of tenancy, and a resulting lack of dollars for education, housing and living. Now all of this is changed thanks to Mr. O'Neal who has worked and long. Utilizing the theme of "Stepping Up To A Greater Farm and Home Program" farm agents have stimulated as never before the richness and profits of life on the farm.

That 14 Ham and Egg shows were held over Georgia before the feature event here at Fort Valley State College is a tribute to the growing awareness of farmers on how to achieve a fuller and better life through products developed on the farm.

### MEAT ON DISPLAY

How well this lesson was brought home to farmers in the Middle Georgia area was seen in the 1000 pieces of meat on display in the improvised smokehouse at Fort Valley State College. Also in the coast-to-coast broadcast over the American Broadcasting Company on Saturday which carried to all of the United States the message of Georgia's success in growing better hams and eggs for the enrichment of the farmers and the health of all.

Judging of Hams and Eggs was done by Charles E. Bell, livestock specialist and H. W. Bennett, poultryman, Agricultural Extension Service.

At Friday's assembly C. V. Troup, president of Fort Valley State College introduced Col A. T. Walden of Atlanta who delivered the feature address.

Remarks were by Miss Susan Myrick, associate editor and Peyton Anderson, editor of the Macon Telegraph and Alva Tabor, vocational itinerant teacher.

During the afternoon session, remarks were made by R. P. Swan,

county agent, Mr. Peyton Anderson and Alva Tabor.

### SATURDAY BROADCAST

The program came to a close with a coast-to-coast broadcast over the American Broadcasting Company with Robert White, Director of Agriculture and Public Service, and R. D. Stephens, Georgia Extension Service.

Other participants in the three-day program were Alexander Hulse, State 4-H leader, Augustus Hill, assistant state Negro agent, Camilla Weems, assistant state agent for Negro work.

In the institute on "Stepping Up To A Greater 1949 Farm and Home Program" the audience heard Kenneth Treanor, economist; E. D. Alexander, agronomist; Charles E. Bell, livestock specialist; Miss Martha McAlpine, family life specialist; Miss Camilla Weems, and Miss Quinnell McRae, clothing specialist.

All speakers paid a glowing tribute to Farm Agent Otis S. O'Neal, who started the show more than 34 years ago and saw it develop into one of the major farm events held in the United States.

FORT VALLEY HAM AND EGG SHOW — Top photo shows Farm Agent Otis S. O'Neal, founder of the famed Annual Ham and Egg Show, showing a prize ham to, left to right, R. P. Swan, Fort Valley agriculturist; O. W. Williams, state extension livestock specialist; Dr. J. K. Warner, meat specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; C. E. Bell, extension livestock specialist of Georgia, and A. S. Baker, assistant state extension supervisor. Bottom photo shows Attorney A. T. Walden of Atlanta, speaking amidst a sea of hams and eggs. — (Goodlett Photo)



# Farm News

## Credits County Agent

*Comie*

STATESBORO, Ga.—Rob-

ert L. Lee, \$11,000-a-year farmer, who owns 430 acres near here, had a hard time getting started in farming. "Only my determination, help from my county agent, and a few sideline jobs kept me and my family going 'til we got on our feet," says Mr. Lee, who has developed one of the most highly diversified farms in Georgia's cotton belt.

His cropping program now includes cattle, hogs, peanuts, corn, pecans, tobacco, turpentine, timber, truck crops and cotton. "But this is my last year in cotton," Mr. Lee states. "You know, cotton takes a lot of work; my children are growing up now and are going on their own. So, I think I had better get into something I can handle mostly myself."

*But 12-17-49*  
MR. LEE'S 1950 farm plan provides for the dropping of cotton and for a marked expansion of cattle production. He has spent a good part of this year developing pastures and putting up fences.

It was in 1930 that Mr. Lee first tried his hand at operating a farm. He started out as a tenant with twenty acres and a "piece of a mule." Before that he had done some farming with his father, but mostly he had worked at sawmills and in the turpentine forest.

*But 12-17-49*  
His first crop—cotton and corn—brought him only \$125. "If it hadn't been for the money I earned turpentine on the side, I don't know what me and my family would have done," Mr. Lee asserts.

*But 12-17-49*  
BUT HE HAD planned to continue and was ready to plant when his mule dropped dead. With no mule, he couldn't make a crop. So he took his family to Florida to harvest truck crops.

Two years later, Mr. Lee and his family returned to Statesboro in a Model T which they sold to make the down-payment on three mules. "I was ready to make an-

other try, at farming," says Mr. Lee. "I rented sixty-five acres of cottonland, and went into debt to buy feed for my mules and food for my family."

In order to get enough money to buy Sunday clothes and pay church dues, he worked part-time as a chipper in a turpentine forest.

When his cotton was ginned, there were twelve bales. He paid off his debts and paid down on a truck which he used to haul fuel wood to town.

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BY 1937, THE Lees were able to pay \$500 down on 202 acres of run-down, eroded land. With the help of his county agent and Soil Conservation Service, they halted erosion, healed the gullies, and increased the productivity of their farm.

Among other things, they set out 300 pecan trees. Most of them now are bearing fruit. During good years, their pecans bring close to \$3,000.

Little by little, Mr. Lee and his family increased their land. Today, they own 431 acres. Improved soil and water conservation practices have increased marked their yield of peanuts, corn, tobacco and truck crops. Receipts from crops, including 100 hogs and a few head of cattle totaled about \$11,000 last year.

\*\*\*  
FOUR YEARS AGO, they remodeled their home. Morris M. Martin, the county agent, supplied them with plans, and offered helpful suggestions. "Mr. Martin is a big help to me and the other farmers in this community," Mr. Lee told State Agent P. H. Stone the other day.

Mr. Martin has been an agent in Bullock County since 1944. He has organized nine farmers clubs and twenty 4-H clubs. "I have six children in 4-H clubs," says the 45-year-old farmer. "My other four came along before we had clubs in this county. Now they are grown and have moved away."

But Mr. Lee is counting on Daniel, his oldest boy at home, to take over the farm when he retires. "I have two tractors, and Dan can handle either one of them like a man; he enjoys it, too," the father boasts.

Daniel, who is 15, says he has learned a lot in 4-H club work. Thinks he would like to make farming his career after four years at Fort Valley A. and M. College.



*Comie But 12-17-49*  
**Teamwork**—Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Lee of Statesboro, Ga., team up to repair their walk and beautify the yard of their farm residence which underwent remodeling four years ago.—USDA Photo.



# Ham And Egg Show

## On At Fort Valley

By MARION E. JACKSON

FORT VALLEY Ga.— (SNS) — Georgia farmers have transferred the auditorium of Fort Valley State College here into a gourmet's paradise as hundreds of succulent pieces of food products went on display Thursday at the 39th Annual Ham and Egg Show.

A huge smokehouse constructed on the stage of the Auditorium is arrayed with champion hams—the Blue Ribbon prize winners—of 14 county show, conducted in the Middle Georgia area.

The whole collection of farm eatables stems from the labor of Farm Agent O. S. O'Neal, who originated the show and developed it into one of the nation's foremost farm events. Through newspapers, magazines and radio O'Neal has been lauded on pioneering in contributing to the standards of home cured meat and graded eggs.

So valuable has this contribution been that in recent years coast-to-coast farm shows have been broadcast from the site of the Ham and Egg Show advertising to America the wonders of simple farm life and achievements in home food production in this state.

### SATURDAY BROADCAST

On Saturday, March 12th, the American Broadcasting Company will carry a coast-to-coast broadcast at 12:30 p. m. with Robert White, director of Agriculture and public service and R. D. Stephens, Associate editor of extension service in charge.

The highlight of the second day of the show will be an address by Col. A. T. Walden, wellknown Atlanta lawyer, who is a native of Fort Valley and a graduate of Fort Valley State College.

Friday, March 11, more than 40 hams will be auctioned and prizes awarded. Lynn Davis of Macon will be the auctioneer.

Around 2,500 farmers from surrounding counties will view the show, but students merchants, and visitors are already on hand to attend the display.

The center of attraction is the smokehouse with 600 hams, 200 shoulders, 200 pieces of bacon, one whole cured hog and 200 quarts of sausage, spareribs, cracklings, chitterlings, backbone and lard.

### DISCUSSION PERIOD

Events of the program include a discussion group led by key farmers and their wives and agricultural leaders, a big 4-H Achievement program, with 400 officers and members taking part.

Other events scheduled are a demonstration class meeting, a barbecue dinner, and the presentation of awards.

Otis S. O'Neal, the originator of the show, still is an active figure in the Ham and Egg Show. Each exhibit and detail of the show started some 39 years ago is personally supervised by the aging farm agent.

The whole display is a dream that came true for O'Neal who came to this area with the vision of awakening farms to the necessity of increased farm productivity.

How well he has succeeded is seen in this great affair here at Fort Valley State College.

## GEORGIAN GETS AWARD

# Ham Show Founder Honored at Washington

FORT VALLEY—Otis S. O'Neal, founder of the Georgia Ham and Egg Show, was presented a Superior Service Award by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan.

The presentation took place on the Washington Monument grounds at the nation's capital during the annual honor awards ceremony of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Approximately 3,000 USDA employees looked on as O'Neal and 57 other Agriculture and State Extension Service workers received awards for distinguished or superior service.

Principal address for the occasion was delivered by Sen. Elmer Thomas, of Oklahoma, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. W. A. Minor, assistant to the Secretary, presided, and the Air Forces band furnished music.

In making the presentation to O'Neal, only Negro employee to receive an award, Secretary Brannan said, "For outstanding ability, ingenuity and perseverance as a county agent in conducting extension work among and with the Negro farm population of your area, I am happy to present to you this Superior Service Award which consists of a certificate, a medal, and a lapel button."

Although the Ham and Egg show was not specifically mentioned in the citation, it was mainly for O'Neal's development of this important agricultural exhibition that he received the award. Only other Negro employee of agriculture to receive such an award was T. M. Campbell, field agent, who was so honored in 1947.

It was in 1916, two years after O'Neal became a county agent, that he held the first Ham and Egg show at Fort Valley State College. He created it to help encourage more Negro farmers to raise chickens and produce and cure a year-round supply of meat for their families.

He recognized the need for such an exhibit as he visited farm people and found their meat supply exhausted by February. He visited one farm with a family of 14 children. Only part of a ham hung from a piece of hay wire in the corn crib. When he asked the farmer where he was going to get meat to feed his family the rest of the year, the man said, "I reckon I'll buy it."

North Carolina. R. E. Jones, State extension agent, made a brief talk in which he commended the farmers of the county for their progress.

### Annual Show

# Two Tons Of Hams Exhibited

RALEIGH, N. C.—More than 200 farmers of Johnson County attended the second annual Ham and Egg Show in Smithfield recently, reports E. R. Johnson, County agent for the State College Extension Service.

A total of 150 prize hams weighing approximately two tons were displayed by 109 individual farmers. Better methods of cutting and curing were observed by the judges, who placed seventy hams in the blue ribbon group, fifty-three in the red ribbon group, and twenty-seven in the white ribbon group.

### HAM, EGG DISHES

More than eighty-five home demonstration club members exhibited 100 dozen eggs, emphasizing the difference between poor and good quality in eggs. The club members also displayed several types of ham and egg dishes, including ham with deviled eggs, hame and eggs with pineapple, pound cake, egg and ham slaw, egg and ham salad, ham with scrambled eggs, ham sandwich, and baked ham.

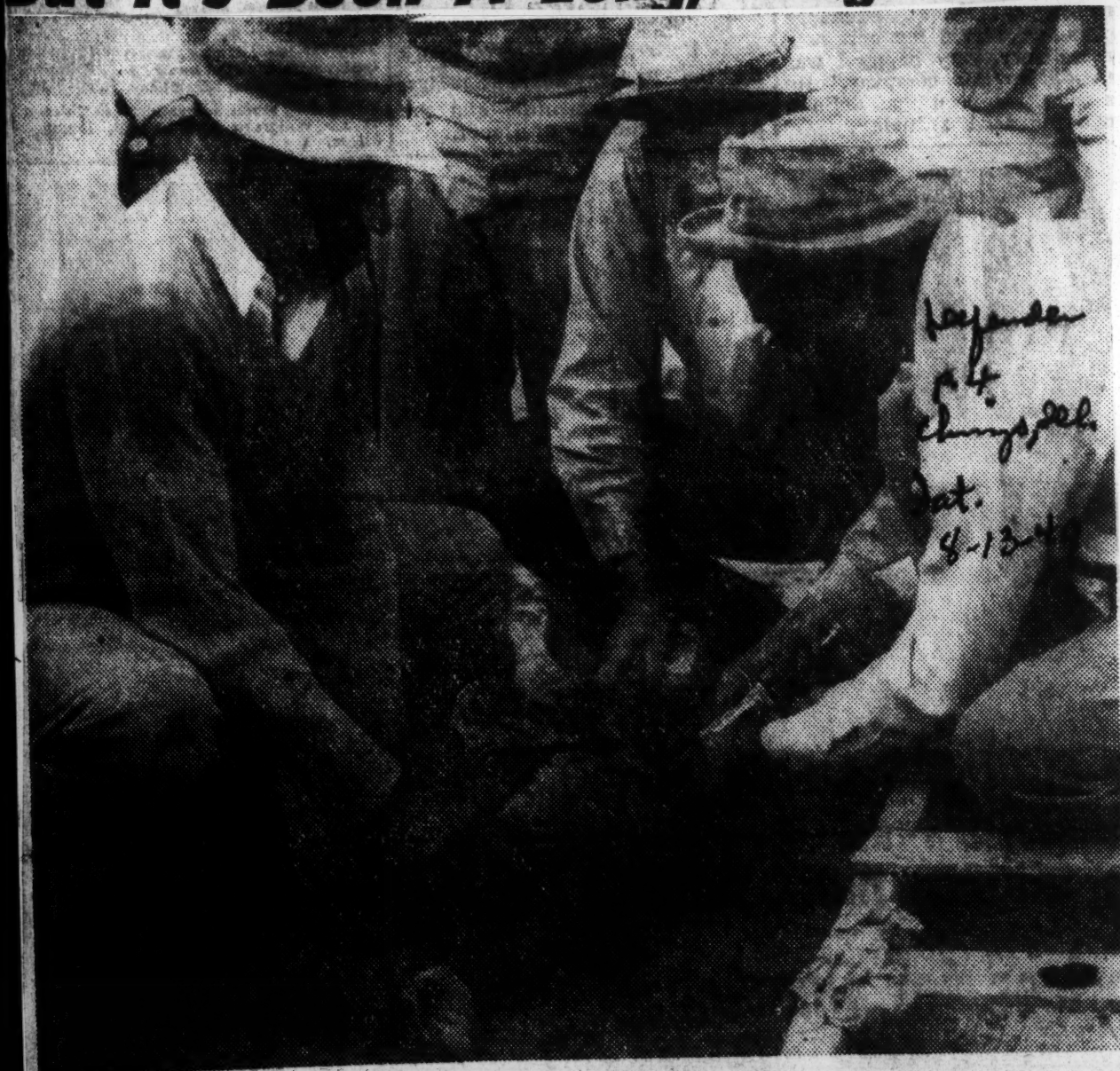
Odel Holder and John Holloman, 4-H members of Richard B. Harrison Junior Club, presented a demonstration on "Caring for, Grading, and Marketing Eggs." This team won first place in the county elimination contest.

### DISCUSS CHICKENS

Thomas B. Morris and Jack Kelley, extension poultry and swine specialists, respectively, discussed how chickens and hogs can help balance the farming system of



# Southern Farmers Are Prospering, But It's Been A Long, Tough Grind



CLASS IN VETERINARY SCIENCE watches hog vaccinating demonstration for hog cholera on a Negro farm near the college. This demonstration

By ALBON L. HOLSEY

For many years Mr. Holsey has handled publicity at Tuskegee Institute, and from 1936 to 1944 was "loaned" by Tuskegee Institute to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to prepare and distribute agricultural news releases to the Negro press. This is the first of two articles written by Mr. Holsey especially for the Defender. *See page 8-13-49*

In 1938, it required the sale of sixty-five 200-pound hogs to pay a \$1,000 debt. In 1948, the same debt could be paid from the sale of 21 hogs.

The cotton gin sale was 23 bales to pay the \$1,000 debt in 1938 and 10 bales in 1948. These figures were

is being given for benefit of farmers in the community who in turn, will vaccinate their own hogs against cholera.

compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics

How have Southern Negro farmers fared in this price shift? They have prospered.

Along with the price increase from the sale of farm crops there has been a similar increase in the goods and services which farmers have had to purchase.

Generally, however, the farmer is in a state of prosperity when there is a good margin between the prices of commodities he sells and of the goods he buys.

Factors which have contributed to present farm prosperity are: (a) increased acreage yields resulting from technical advice of government farm agencies; (b) government price supports; (c) mechanization and (d) credit through Production Credit Associations and other government agencies.

On a recent tour through Louisiana and Mississippi, I interviewed many Negro farmers who are members of local Production Credit Associations.

## Government Program Aided

Elijah Moore of Boyce, Louisiana, for example, "got back on his feet" as a result of the four factors listed above.

Fuller E. Robertson, Negro agricultural agent located in Alexandria, accompanied me on my visit to Moore's establishment.

As we sat in the living room of his six-room, comfortable home and talked with Mr. and Mrs. Moore, he told us a moving story of fluctuating years of farming until the new government programs made possible his present status of progress.

He owns 118 acres of land, and in 1948 made 24 bales of cotton. According to BAE statistics quoted above, that meant a gross of \$4,000 from cotton which does not include his income from corn, milk and poultry.

Moore, a former student at Tuskegee Institute, began farming in 1905 as a renter.

## Overcame Losses

In 1941 and 1942 he suffered two successive crop failures, and to add to his troubles, lost, through a flood, some of his valuable work stock.

Production Credit came to his rescue in 1943. Since then he has steadily moved forward. His net worth is now over \$10,000 as compared to about \$3,000 during those two disastrous years.

"Guess I am somewhat of a speculator," said Milton Cloutier at his Alexandria, La. home when I interviewed him.

"I inherited 30 acres of land from my father," he continued, "and sold, bought and exchanged land until I got what I wanted."

He now owns 100 acres of rich land in an all-Negro Cane River section about 30 miles away and rents an additional 200 acres to carry on his extensive operations.

He operates three tractors, has six tenant families on his land and owns two massive trucks, bearing his name, for his heavy hauling.

## Production Credit

Cloutier joined the Production Credit Association and made his first loan in 1943. At that time he

was a tenant and owned about \$1,200 worth of equipment including an old tractor.

Production Credit officials liked Cloutier's hustle and resourcefulness and had no hesitation in making yearly advances to finance his crops and expansion. His present

holdings and operations are valued at more than \$30,000.

At the end of World War II, Cloutier bought lumber and building materials from a nearby army camp which was being dismantled, and constructed 17 renting houses in Alexandria and a modern home for his family which includes Mrs. Cloutier and eight children. An older daughter attended Xavier this year. Before moving to the new home in Alexandria, the Cloutiers occupied a home on his farm which is located in Natchitoches Parish.





**MILTON CLOUTIER** (center) of Alexandria, La., with the latest models of reaping and binding machinery for his grain crops. Cloutier also owns two trucks and three tractors. He operates a 300-acre farm.



**A-H CLUB YOUTH** who won first prize with his Jersey Calf at the 6th annual Livestock-Poultry show and Farm and Home week at Southern University. This young fellow is from East Baton Rouge Parish.



# Rankin's Tupelo A Contradiction; Farmer Walker's Story Proves It

By ALBION L. HOLSEY

For many years Mr. Holsey has handled publicity at Tuskegee Institute, and from 1936 to 1944 was "loaned" by Tuskegee Institute to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to prepare and distribute agricultural news releases to the Negro press. This is the second of two articles written by Mr. Holsey especially for the Defender.

TUPELO, Miss.—It was 10:15 p.m. when the porter came through the train and announced: "The next stop is Tupelo."

As flickering neon lights over business places and lighted streets came into view, I gathered my bag and brief case and moved towards the door of our coach. Behind me came a middle-aged woman, well dressed and very intelligent looking.

"Do you live in Tupelo?" she inquired as we stood in the aisle. As she spoke there was a hint of uneasiness and uncertainty in her manner.

"No," I replied, "I am just here on business."

Whatever problem was in her mind, was, apparently not answered by my statement for she said in a half whisper:

"I have never been here before, but tonight I'll be here over for four hours to catch my next train. I am very nervous. You know this is John Rankin's town."

"Fortunately," I replied, "you will not have to change stations and very likely there will be other colored passengers in the waiting room to be company."

Tupelo is a city of surprises and contradictions. This was also my first visit to this Mississippi city. My mission was to contact some prosperous Negro farmers in the area who are members of the Total Production Credit Association.

At 7:30 the next morning, in company with Miss Alice I. Little, home demonstration agent, I reported to the office of M. C. Dougherty, secretary-treasurer of the Tupelo Production Credit Association.

## A FATHER-SON PARTNERSHIP

Our first stop was at the farm house of Will Walker, who owns 770 acres of rich prairie land located between Tupelo and Aberdeen. They were expecting us, and after introductions to Mrs. Walker and Will Jr. we were invited to the spacious living room. From where I sat a portion of the kitchen could be seen and I noticed a gas cooking range, a hot water tank and a mechanical refrigerator.

In reply to my question regarding his education, Walker, Sr. said, "Yes, I attended Morehouse col-

lege during the days when Morehouse was in school. They were in a higher class than I was but I knew them. They have gone up since those days."

"Sure," I commented, "but so have you. And both of them would enjoy a visit here to see how you too have gone up."

And here is how Walker has "gone up."

His present holdings include the old home in which he was born when his father was a renter. Soon after leaving Morehouse a loan for the purchase of 300 acres of land was negotiated from the Federal Land Bank. Since then he has acquired other lands, and by skillful farming has made his acres pay.

"I always kept up with new farming methods as recommended by the government and have seen the results. We used to get 241 pounds of cotton to the acre and now we get 392 pounds."

"And I might add," said Dougherty, "that last year we helped him purchase a hay press which does the work of 14 men."

"And we made 20,000 bales of hay," chimed in Walker, Jr.

## More Than 100 Bales of Cotton

In 1948 the Walkers made more than 100 bales of cotton, and sales of beef cattle exceeded \$2,500. Dougherty estimates that their trucks and farm machinery are worth at least \$9,000 and that the net worth of the land and farming operations exceed \$50,000. They refused \$125 per acre for some of their cropland.

Later we drove about four miles "around the road" to reach the pasture. (Mr. Dougherty invited Mr. Walker, Jr. to ride with us while Mr. Walker, Sr., and three of his tenants went ahead of us in one of the trucks.) Reaching the pasture in which grazed prize mules and Percherons, Mr. Walker cupped his hands over his mouth and gave a loud call which echoed through the distant pines. (I had heard hog calls but this was a cow

call.) In a very few minutes white faced Hereford beef cattle began to appear from amid the pines. It was a fascinating sight to see them as they answered "their master's voice." Pretty soon we were surrounded by them, and I counted 80 head—cows and calves—fattening themselves for market on this

rich scientifically cultivated pasture land.

## Artificial Lake

To the left from where we stood there was an artificial lake, constructed with government aid under the old AAA program. This lake, about a fourth of a mile in diameter, is essential for the proper growth and development of cattle.

"Farming now isn't as hard as it was when I was a young man," said Walker.

Will Walker, Jr. also attended Morehouse until called to the Navy in World War II.

Because his father suffers from deafness—a disability he has had since 1910—Junior decided, when released from war service, to come home and join his father.

Recently he married a teacher in the Okolona City School and has just completed a six-room, air conditioned cottage in Okolona. When we visited the home, Mrs. Walker in becoming slack was preparing dinner.

## Okolona College

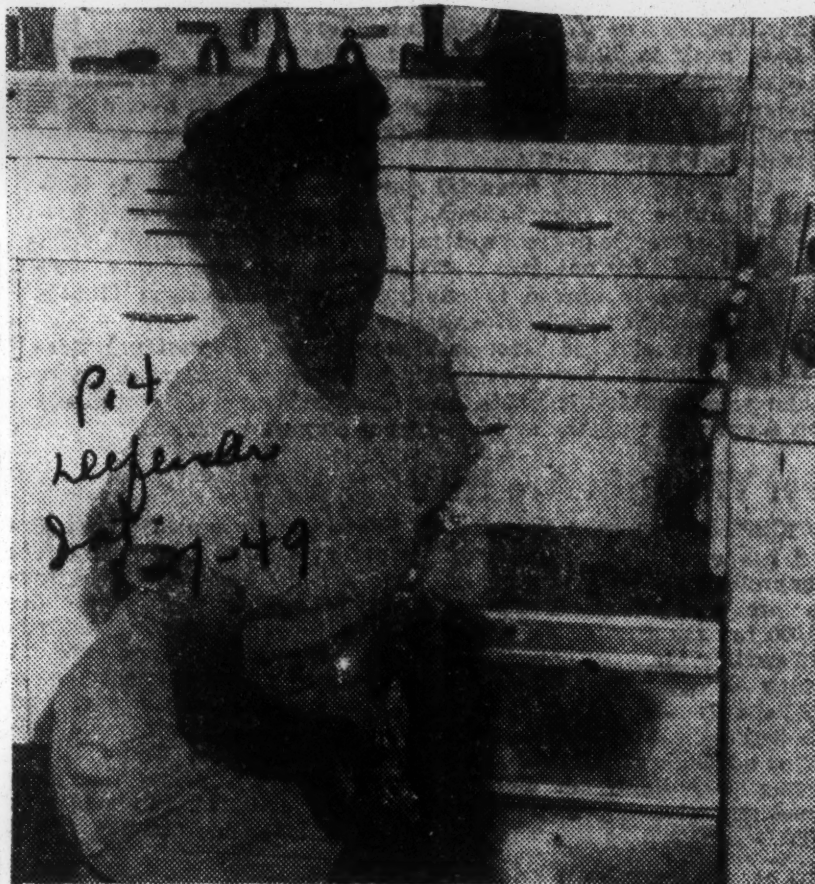
At lunch time, Dougherty and I stopped at Okolona College. This college, founded in 1902, in a blacksmith shop by Wallace A. Battle, grew under his wise and able leadership into a plant valued at half a million dollars. When Battle retired in 1933, the school's

future was assured through the influence and support of the American Church Institute.

In company with President W. Milan Davis I later went for a view of the farm and shops.

Okolona College has a program of community service which is gradually lifting living standards among this rural and semi-rural Negro population. They maintain a community canning factory which is patronized by Negro farm wives for miles around.

Their health program is also teaching farm families the importance of nutrition, and regular clinics focus attention upon such health hazards as tuberculosis, cancer, and other malignant diseases.



MRS. WILL WALKER, Jr., is as charming in the kitchen while canning beans as she is in the living room with friends. Her husband "goes to business" on his father's 770 acre farm located six miles from Okolona, Miss.

## Rural Community Development Council

Tupelo is community-conscious. Through the leadership of George McLean, editor of the local Daily, Dougherty, local bankers and other business and civic leaders, a Community Development Council has been organized to stimulate team work between the rural and urban citizens.

Miss Little, the home demonstration agent, represents the Council to promote its five-star farm management program among Negro farmers. She has organized four rural communities comprising a total of 320 families.

visited Pine Grove, one of these communities in which 101 families are teamed together; 61 are owners and 40 sharecroppers or tenants on the farms of the 61 owners.

## Income From Milk

Nearby milk processing plants provide a regular market for their milk products. These farmers own from 2 to 6 or more cows, and milk sales supplement the family income by from \$25 to \$75 monthly.

Through the Council's laboratory for artificial insemination the quality and quantity of milk production is high, and the plants of-

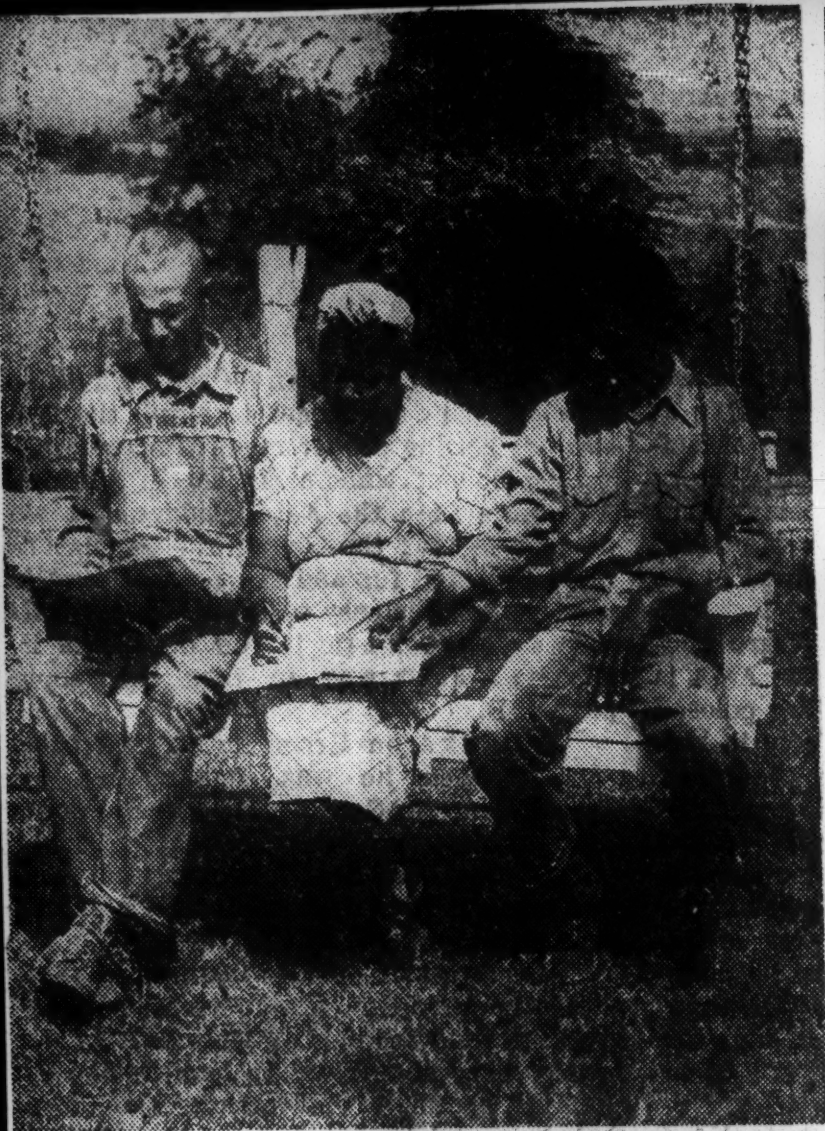
fer prizes for cleanliness and high butter fat.

McLean, in commenting upon Pine Grove said, "We want to demonstrate that a model Negro rural community with its own leadership, wholeheartedly supported by the best white people, can prosper." . . .

In the early evening I went alone to several stores to make a minor purchase just to see the attitude of storekeepers. They were courteous, thanked me and said "come again."

Neither from white passersby nor in the stores did I observe a Rankin leer. This experience plus my observations during the day, and comments heard from white and Negroes contradicted the connotation "this is John Rankin's town" as voiced by the dispirited woman on the train.





MRS. WILL WALKER, Sr., (center) helps her husband (left) and son (right) do the mathematics for their farm operations. Family discussions, says Walker, Sr., have brought success to our efforts. This 75-year-old farmer attended Morehouse College when Dr. Mordecai Johnson was a student there. They are seated on the lawn of home of the Senior Walkers.



ENTERPRISING WILL WALKER, Jr., has just completed a modern, air conditioned home in Okolona, Miss. His recent bride, Mrs. Margaret Stone Walker, teaches in the Okolona City School and takes pride in reminding friends that she helped design the home and her husband helped to build it.

shifted from cotton to potatoes with disastrous results. In other years he had demonstrated his ability as a successful farmer so his PCA extended him additional credit, enabling him to hang on to his land, return to cotton, and pay off his debts.

In Mississippi, Mr. Holsey visited a father and son team, Will Walker, Sr., and Jr., whose net worth now exceeds \$50,000. The elder Walker started out as a tenant farmer after dropping out of Morehouse college. He skimped and saved up to buy a farm of his own. Finally, with the aid of a Federal Land Bank, he bought 300 acres near Tupelo.

Today, he and his son own 770 acres. Last year, they harvested 300 tons of hay, 800 bushels of corn, and 101 bales of cotton. They own 22 head of workstock, two tractors, two trucks, and a hay baler.

In concluding his report, Mr. Holsey says that the Federal Land Banks and the Production Credit Associations are a great help to colored farmers. These agencies, he states, have assisted many farmers in need of sound credit aid based upon collateral and ability to repay.

In addition to Mr. Holsey, FCA has a full-time Negro administrative officer, A. H. Fuhr, who spends a large part of his time in the field helping to acquaint colored farmers with the credit services available through the agencies supervised by Farm Credit.

## Holsey Says FCA Helps Farmers Hold Their Land

WASHINGTON—Colored farmers, like the other farmers of the nation, are being aided by the Farm Credit Administration in holding on to their land and in increasing their net worth, says Alton L. Holsey, assistant to the president of Tuskegee Institute.

Mr. Holsey, who is serving as part-time FCA consultant, made this observation in a report which he submitted recently to I. W. Duggan, Governor of Farm Credit, following a tour of farms in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The tour was made by Mr. Holsey at the request of Governor Duggan for the purpose of finding out the extent of Negro participation in the credit services of the agencies supervised by the FCA.

During the tour, Mr. Holsey conferred with Federal Land Bank and

Production Credit Association officials, and visited several colored farm families.

Near Alexandria, La., he visited the 118-acre farm of Elijah Moore, who has been able to hold on to his land largely as a result of credit assistance he has received from his Production Credit Association.

In 1942, two successive crop failures, the death of two of his mules, and a mortgage on his farm had Mr. Moore hard pressed. But his PCA loaned him enough to replace his mules, meet the payment on his mortgage note, and to make a crop. At that time, his net worth was only \$2,700; today, it's in excess of \$10,000.

Another Louisiana colored farmer, George Figgins, was about to lose his farm a few years back when he



1b 1949

# H.O. Sargent Award

## Georgia Farmer Wins H.O. Sargent Award

Atlanta. Leroy Sills of Waynesboro was the recipient of the H.O. Sargent Award of the New Farmers of America last week. The award came toward the end of the national convention of the organization of farm youth studying vocational agriculture.

The Sargent Award is made annually to a former NFA member selected as "most successful young farmer in the United States."

A cash prize of \$250 and a plaque accompanied the award. William Cross of Clark County, Va., was runner-up.

Winners of other national prizes announced were:

Vernell Warren, Tyler, Texas, farm and home improvement; Preston Warren, Tyler, farm electrification; James Griffin, Oak Ridge, La., soil and water management, and Oliver Campbell of Monticello, dairy farming.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Courier

Sat. Nov. 12, 1949



# Family Is Grossing \$5,000

*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

FRANKLINTON, La.—The need for more milk for their growing family got Mr. and Mrs. Willie E. Magee, who live near here, out of cotton farming and into dairying.

Eight years ago the Magees were tenant farmers growing cotton and corn and coming out in debt almost every year. Today they own sixty acres, a new home, and twenty-four head of dairy cattle that bring them a gross income of about \$5,000 annually.

## FROM PUREBRED STOCK

The Grade A milk from their grade and purebred Holsteins, Jerseys and Guernseys is sold in New Orleans. A route truck picks up thirty gallons of milk at their gate every day. A new electric cooler keeps the milk top quality until the truck arrives.

"I want a herd of forty milk cows and about 140 more acres of land," says Mr. Magee. "Then I think I'll be in shape to see my children through school."

It was his desire to see that his eight children get at least a high school education, as well as an adequate supply of milk, that partly influenced him to shift from cotton to dairying.

"Cotton chopping and picking used to keep my children out of school part of the spring and fall," the 36-year-old dairyman explains. "But dairying doesn't interfere with their education."

## NO ONE-CROP FARMER

However, Mr. Magee is no one-crop farmer — whether it's cotton or dairying. Aside from milk, he sells hogs, calves, poultry, eggs and vegetables.

"Of course, I didn't switch from cotton overnight," says Mr. Magee. "It took eight years and a lot of help from my county agent for me to grow out of cotton and into dairying."

Recently his county agent, T. J. Butler, has been helping him to improve and expand his pastures. Now Mr. Magee is growing lespedeza, Dallis grass, and White Dutch clover for his herd. And he is

building up the productivity of his land with such winter legumes as Austrian winter peas, vetch, and crimson clover.

The dairyman is renting some pasture land now, but plans to buy eighty acres for pasture next year. He figures that as his eight children grow older, they will be able to help him expand his dairy enterprise.

## SON WINS PRIZES

His oldest son, who is now 16, was awarded over \$100 in prizes at the recent parish fair for calves he raised as a 4-H project. The youth plans to be a dairy farmer. In fact, the whole Magee family likes dairying because it has brought them a better living. Three years ago, Mr. Magee built a new home. He used timber off his own land, and did most of the work himself.

Mrs. Magee is proud of her new kitchen, gas stove, electric refrigerator, sink, and hot and cold running water. "The REA brought us electricity," she says smiling.

Aside from a few white farmers in the community, most of the Magees' neighbors still count on cotton for their cash income. However, already three families have been converted to dairying by the Magees' success. County Agent Butler says that he expects a large percentage of the farmers in the area to turn to dairying and tung oil farming within the next few years.



# Rapid Farm Mechanization In South Expected--Brannan

Rapid farm mechanization is expected in the Southern States, says Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan in his annual report to the President.

Farms are now being mechanized more rapidly in all parts of the United States than at any other period in our history, the Secretary states. And he adds that a generation from now there may be five million field tractors on our farms. This would represent a 40 per cent increase. In addition to the field tractors, Brannan expects the appearance of several hundred thousand garden tractors.

The increase in tractor power on farms is likely to be accompanied by a further decline in the number of horses and mules and a corresponding reduction in the number of acres devoted to the production of feed for workstock, the Secretary points out.

Also, Brannan says in his report that the increased use of tractor power has been associated with a trend toward larger farm units and a decrease in the total farm population, especially of low-income families. Reflected also are a decrease in birth rates, a reduction in the demand for hired labor, and in the amount of part-time farming.

The average number of workers employed on U. S. farms in 1947 dropped seven per cent below the 1935-39 average. However, as a result of machine power, farm production was up 34 per cent.

Other trends which the Secretary points to are: (1) A high ratio of cropland to total farmland, (2) a shift to crops adapted to tractor farming, and (3) an increase in the raising of cattle and hogs.

## Harvest Only Small Part of the Total Production in Delta

(Special to The Courier)

WASHINGTON — Although harvesting of cotton by mechanical pickers has increased rapidly in the Mississippi Delta in the last few years, machines in use in the area generally harvest only a small part of the total production, according to a report based on a study made by the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station cooperating with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Up to now mechanical pickers have been used only to supplement the hand labor force, it is pointed out.

The report, "Mechanical Cotton Picker Operation in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta," covers a survey financed in part with funds from the Research and Marketing Act. Described as "preliminary," the report is part of a larger study dealing with all aspects of cotton mechanization.

### INCLUDES WASTAGE

Mechanically picked cotton in the Delta cost farmers, for harvesting, the equivalent of \$2.42 a hundred pounds of seed cotton in 1947 when rates for hand picking ranged from \$2.50 to \$4.50. Costs included wastage and grade losses, as well as operating costs. The latter includes out-of-pocket expenses and depreciation and interest on the actual cost of the machine. If based on the higher 1948 price of the machine, the cost to pick 100 pounds would have averaged \$2.65.

Depreciation and repairs account for nearly 60 per cent of the operating cost. For machine-picked cotton in 1947 operating cost averaged \$14.77 per bale or about \$1 per hundred pounds of seed cotton. Wastage and loss due to lowering of the grade when machine picked increased the cost to \$2.42 per hundred pounds.

### COULD BE REDUCED

The study further indicates that the per-bale cost of harvesting cotton by machine could be greatly reduced if farmers could use their machines to capacity since the fixed cost for the machine is the same whether full or low-capacity use is made of it. Machines can harvest eight to ten bales per 10-

hour day under favorable conditions, but the daily picking rate under actual conditions (performance of twenty-six mechanical pickers studied) in 1947 was only three and one-half bales. Under favorable conditions machines can harvest 150 to 200 bales of cotton per season. The machines studied averaged only 109 bales in 1947. To make that average, some machines picked as low as twenty-seven bales in the season; others as high as 180 bales. The eight machines having the lowest volume averaged only forty-four bales for the harvesting season and the picking rate of the eight machines was \$3.90 per hundred pounds of seed cotton. On the other hand, the remaining eighteen machines averaged 137 bales, the average picking rate being \$2.50 per hundred pounds.

The point where there is no dollar incentive for selecting either method (hand or machine) over the other is reached with the hand picking rate at \$2.65 per hundred, the report points out. With hand picking rates at \$3 or more, there is a decided saving, the report points out, in the use of the mechanical picker. In this comparison the 1948 price of the machine is used.

## Perspective On Mississippi

Much of the Old South's cotton used to be shipped to England to be woven into cloth. There were indeed numerous economic and cultural ties between this part of the country and Britain. Many of those ties and interests remain; so it was not surprising that the Washington correspondent of *The Times* of London recently wrote an editorial page article on cotton and the economic revival of the Southern States.

The correspondent wrote mainly of cotton culture in the Mississippi Delta, the area between Memphis and Vicksburg. He noted the agricultural emphasis in Mississippi and the lack of manufacturing. Eighty-three per cent of the population is rural, and the state has the smallest per capita income among the states. Raw materials produced there—and cotton is one of the most important items—go for the most part to neighboring states for manufacturing.

"As the states, in spite of the steady growth of the federal government in the last 50 years," he observes, "are still self-governing, and therefore have to be to a large extent, self-supporting, the effect of draining off Mississippi's raw materials for processing outside the state is to leave her with inadequate funds for education, health, and all other services financed on a state basis."

In the Delta country cotton is still king. There the production of the crop is largely affected by mechanization. The mechanical cotton picker, while not perfect, is under certain conditions a satisfactory device for an operation which for generations has been done by hand. The flame thrower is beginning to supplant the hand hoe in the weeding process. Mechanization, however, has not extended to the weeding operation during the first few weeks—before the plant is big enough to withstand the weed-killing flame thrower.

When mechanization has reached a foreseeable stage, some 200,000 persons—mainly Negroes—in the Delta region will, it is estimated, no longer be required as labor. The *Times* correspondent remarks: "When 80 per cent of the labor has been displaced, much of it at a time when the industrial North is no longer expanding and in no position to absorb additional labor, there will be serious problems of unemployment and many of the racial stresses, which traditionally are confined to the South, will spread to the North as well."

"The mechanization of cotton-growing may," he concludes, "over the next 20 years, drive so many Negroes North that the per-

ennial and insoluble problem of relations between the white and colored races will become as dangerous in the North as it has long been in the South. Such a development would have much to be said for it. The burden of trying to solve it alone would be lifted from the South and the North would find many of the self-righteous attitudes it has adopted less easy to maintain and might even begin to feel sympathy with those in the South who have struggled for so many years to find a solution."

\* \* \*

That observation, of course, has been made by many in this country. Some may find comfort in the thought of racial relations becoming a Northern problem as well as a Southern problem, but that will not be an end of the matter.

One approach to a solution must be sought in making displaced Negro field hands into industrial workers.

## Mechanization Of Cotton Is Moving Ahead In The South

Mechanization of the cotton crop is a step nearer this fall as the result of a unified, across-the-board program of research now in its second year that involves work by engineers and scientists in 15 Southern States.

The full-scale effort, made possible by the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, is designed to bring complete mechanization of all phases of cotton production from disposal of previous crop residue thru preparation of the seed bed and control of weeds to stripping or picking, storage and ginning. Agricultural engineers of the U. S. mechanization from start to finish is the objective so that more uniform high-quality cotton may be produced per workers at a low cost available in other cotton producing competitive with the cheap labor areas of the world. It also will involve mechanization of other crops normally planted in rotation with cotton so that farmers can use their equipment with economy and efficiency every year.

Cotton, a major crop in all the Southern States, is not now generally mechanized. It requires about five times as much hand labor as wheat and about 3 1-2 times as much as corn to produce a given gross income. Until the coordinated research program got under way, investigations directed toward mechanization of the crop were piecemeal and without regional unity.

The new program integrates the entire field with individual States taking certain segments, and farm machinery and cotton gin manufacturers on the agricultural chemical and fertilizer industries coop-



erating. Research on varietal and other plant problems related to mechanization, such as defoliation, is also under way in the various States, with parallel engineering studies aimed at development of more effective equipment and operating methods.

*July 10-25-49*  
One indication of advances in cotton mechanization is the estimated number of spindle-type cotton pickers available for the harvest now under way; about 3,000 as compared with only a few hundred shortly after the end of the war. In some States, notably in Arkansas and California, reports to the recent belt wide mechanization of conference in Bennettsville, S. C. indicated the number of mechanical pickers available has doubled the number of a year ago.

A wet season with rank growth of cotton in some areas, which lowers the efficiency of the picking machines and also the grade of the lint, has also resulted in many of the available machines remaining idle. Methods of improving machine picking under a range of climatic and growth conditions as well as better ginning for a higher grade of lint are among phases of the problem included in the current research program. Availability of more hard labor also a factor in limiting mechanical picking in some localities this fall.

Among the initial studies in the crop residue disposal and seedbed preparation in Alabama, Arkansas and Texas. A study of planting of acid-delinted seed was started in Arizona. Studies of bed planting versus flat planting, hill-drop versus contour-drilled planting, and the effect of plant spacing on yield and machine-picker performance were undertaken in California. Where to place fertilizer, and use of machines for precision placement were subjects of study in Mississippi, and fertilizer studies also were undertaken in Georgia. In North Carolina a differential fertilizer placement machine was designed and is under test. Alabama also inaugurated work on equipment and methods of applying anhydrous ammonia.

Weed and grass control research on cotton currently underway includes comparisons of mechanical, flame, and chemical means in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, and Louisiana. Weed control in irrigated cotton fields is under study in New Mexico. Weed emergence and mechanical weed control are subjects of investigations in Oklahoma, while in South Carolina studies are being made of cotton picker efficiency based on methods of obtaining a stand, weed control, and cultivation.

The laborious chopping and thinning process incident to cotton production, considered by the agricul-

tural engineers only as a stop-gap operation will be eliminated if the investigations result in methods of doing this mechanically or in improved planting. A combination of using seed with known viability, of delinting for precision planting of planting to a recognized stand, and of weed control with pre-emergence treatments, is under test. California is studying the spacing of plants within the row.

Insect and plant disease control work has included investigation and demonstration of several new devices in Mississippi. Equipment for defoliation has been under test in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Mississippi, and Texas.

The problem of mechanical harvesting has been attacked on the basis of studying factors for improved cotton fiber recovery by either the spindle-type picker or the stripper. Several varieties of cotton have been included in tests in Alabama, Arizona, California, and Georgia. Use of wetting agents with special attention to reducing the quantity of water added to the cotton in picking, have been studied in Mississippi. Texas experiments on timing of mechanical stripping showed that the least amount of foreign matter is collected weeks before the first killing frost.

Conditioning of cotton and providing storage on the farm so growers can hold the crop in good condition is the objective of studies in several States with the principal work being done in Mississippi.

Although unwilling to predict future trends or developments or to draw conclusions on the basis of one year's results, the agricultural engineers point to a large amount of basic accumulated data on many phases of the mechanization problem as furnishing a foundation for further research and development work. As the studies progress, the new pattern for mechanized production of cotton will evolve. The engineers point out that the cotton farmer will make the final decision as to whether new practices and machines that will be developed as a result of their research will enable him to produce better cotton at lower cost.

## Example Set By Ala. Dairyman *Atlanta, Ga. Dairy World* May Aid Farmers To Mechanize

WASHINGTON—Julius H. Pickett, \$10,000-a-year dairy farmer of Uniontown, Ala., has set an example which many small farmers may find profitable to follow as cotton mechanization increases, says the Alabama State Extension Service.

Mr. Pickett grew up on his father's 1,000-acre cotton farm. And after student days at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., he helped his father manage their farm. Often he saw his father gross as much as \$30,000 of cotton. So he got in the habit of thinking of acres in terms of bales of cotton.

But in 1929, when his father divided his land among his 10 children, Julius received a 96-acre plot which turned out to be unsuited for cotton. No matter how hard he worked, plowing, planting, and chopping, there was little cotton to harvest in the fall. Mr. Pickett says that what the grass didn't choke out, the boll weevils got.

It didn't take him long to realize that only his wife's school teaching salary and what he received for a calf or two and the milk he sold in town kept them going.

Mr. Pickett got to thinking—maybe he ought to try his hand at dairying full-time. Even milking a couple of cows spoiled his Sundays; he might as well make it worthwhile.

That fall, he bought three head of grade Jersey cows, bringing the number in his herd to six. These were sired by Jersey bulls whose offsprings had high milk production records.

**GROSSES \$2,000**

During his first year of full-time dairy farming, he grossed \$2,000 from the milk he sold to a nearby creamery and that he retailed to customers in town. At a glance, his income looked good compared to that cotton had brought. But when he looked a little closer and checked on his feed costs, he wasn't so optimistic about dairying.

Then his county agent invited him to join a group of farmers who were going to visit the Black Belt Experiment Station to observe pasture development. There Mr. Pickett learned that a good pasture is one of the best ways to lowering the cost of milk production.

Immediately, he began improving his pastures. The next year, profits shot up. Today, he has 30 head of high grade Jerseys grazing on Dallas grass, clover, and other forage crops. And his annual gross income during the last few years has averaged close to \$10,000.

His milking chore is easier now, too, since he installed milking machines. Within a couple of hours, he and one helper do the whole job.

and he is off to town to serve his customers. Surplus milk is sold to the creamery.

So well has Mr. Pickett developed his dairy that the U. S. Department of Agriculture got him to conduct short-courses in dairying during the war to help his neighbors increase their milk output.

Annually, the Alabama State Extension Service conducts a tour of his farm to show how Black Belt area farmers may shift partly or wholly from cotton to dairying. And Mr. Pickett has broadcast his story over a Birmingham station.

The Alabama Extension Service points out to Black Belt farmers that the area is just naturally suited to pastures which makes dairying an excellent alternative to cotton. The agency also reminds farmers that Alabama imports dairy products.

## Old King Cotton

**MECHANICAL** cotton pickers fascinate us. For some years

we have watched them. We have followed each announcement of a new revolutionary picker which has ironed the kinks of earlier models and which put hand-picking out of business. We have been amazed that mechanical pickers, if they are as perfect as claimed, have made no more headway than they have.

U. S. Department of Agriculture together with Mississippi Agriculture Experiment Station, made a progress report on use of the mechanical picker in Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. It beats around the bush but a little reading between lines reveals the machine picker picks a bale cheaper than hand labor only if you pay hand labor pretty high wages. The truth is at the wages now paid colored cotton pickers almost everywhere, hand pickers can pick a bale cheaper than the machine can.

*out. 7-30-49*  
There are other factors. The machine is big but it is delicate. The field has to be free from stones or bits of metal or the expensive spindle is ruined. The cotton has to be planted in rows mathematically spaced. And the machine-picked cotton is dirty, full of sticks and stems, requiring special ginning. Fields have to be completely free of grass and weeds.

In short, unless the long-staple story is different in the southwest, the mechanical picker still has to prove itself.



## Cotton Picking Is Big Business

The Georgia cotton farmer who hasn't yet been able to get all his cotton picked off his five or six acres no doubt was in-

terested in two news items of the past week. One told of how cotton pickers had

done a big job, two machines doing in three days what a hundred pickers once

required about two weeks to accomplish. The other told of a lawsuit filed against

a corporation in Arkansas which presumably manages or owns farms on both sides

of the river. A Texas cotton-growing corporation sued the Arkansas firm,

claiming the Arkansas cotton corporation had agreed to release 400 of its 1,005 Mexi-

can cotton pickers to go to Texas and join hundreds there at work on the firm's

farms. The Arkansas firm is charged with refusing. Damages are sought.

Our people already know they can't hire pickers and "come out." In the West,

where the cotton can be grown without much or any poisoning; where the weather

is usually perfect for cotton; where irrigation can be employed and where thou-

sands of Mexican pickers are available, they can just naturally produce cotton

cheaper than we can. But our people can't turn to other

crops easily because that requires capital. We need credit changes and our Con-

gressmen ought to be agitating for them when Congress reconvenes.

**Old South In  
Midst Of  
Revolution**

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA) OPERATORS DECREASE

—The mechanization of cotton farming in the South has made mechanization and cattle have pushed colored farmhand no longer essen-

cial, Ernest E. Neal, director of the Rural Life Council at Tuskegee Institute, last Thursday told the subcommittee on low-income families of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report.

Senator John Sparkman, of Alabama, subcommittee chairman, agreed with Mr. Neal. He said his

historically colored farm workers have been the hand laborers and had not gone in very much for farm ownership except in some areas.

"I will say this," said Senator Sparkman, "they're one of the cotton growers in the world."

He added, however, that mechanization is creating a problem which has just now an impact on the white population of the South as it has on the colored, though perhaps not as extensive.

In his statement before the subcommittee Mr. Neal covered (1) the changing rural scene in the Cotton South, (2) the problem of mechanization and livestock farming, (3) displacement and migration of colored farm families, and (4) suggested proposals for improving the economic stability of colored farm families.

### MIDST OF REVOLUTION

"The old South is in the midst of a revolution," Mr. Neal said. "The established order of cotton cultivation with the share-tenant system is giving way to green fields, grazing cattle, tractors, and cotton pickers."

He added that it is not unusual now "to see in the old plantation cotton economy tractors plowing ground, airplanes poisoning the cotton, and cotton pickers picking the cotton."

The combination of the tractor, the first unit in mechanization, and the mechanical cotton picker, the second unit, makes a large supply of labor on a farm unnecessary, Mr. Neal said.

A labor supply for chopping cotton is found among ex-farm tenants who have found low-paying jobs in nearby towns, he stated, but "when the flamethrower or chopper is brought in along with the tractor and the picker, there is no longer a need for a large supply of cheap labor."

The result is, Mr. Neal said, the ex-tenant's family must seek employment in the larger southern cities or urban centers outside the South.

Some colored farm families, made

useless by machines and cattle, will remain as cash-renters on land not suitable for mechanization, Mr. Neal said. Others will buy family-sized farms on worn-out plantations or other lands not suitable for commercial agriculture.

But the majority of displaced farm workers, he said, "must seek employment that requires the lowest skills, live in the cheapest houses and the most deteriorated sections of the city, thereby contributing a disproportionate share to delinquency, crime, unemployment and relief."

Those who remain on the farm, he said, become the low-income group of subsistence farmers, tenant farmers, and operators of owned farms whose acreage is too small for profitable operation. "In terms of the total economy," he stated, "they are a poor market."

As a means of improving the economic stability of colored farm facilities Mr. Neal submitted recommendations of lending, training and supervision.



## Mechanical Cotton

F. D. PATTERSON

Pickers Not Yet

Used To Capacity

Daily World Atlanta

Although harvesting of cotton by

mechanical pickers has increased

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Described as "preliminary," the re-

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erating costs. The latter includes

out-of-pocket expenses and depre-

ciation and interest on the actual

cost of the machine. If based on the

higher 1948 price of the machine,

the cost to pick one hundred pounds

would have averaged \$2.85

The Constitution

## Mechanization and Its Problems

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—A revolution in agriculture is

under way in the South. Farmers are rapidly shifting from animal

power to machine power. The use of tractors and their associated

equipment is widespread. Cotton and corn pickers, milking ma-

chines, cultivators, combines, peanut diggers, flame cultivators and

dozens of other machines assure greater expansion of mechanization,

additional labor-saving and fewer hand workers in the future.

Farm mechanization offers many

advantages. Among them are relief

from deadening toil or drudgery,

release of women and school-age

children from field work, short-

ening of the work day, increase of

wages and income, lower cost of

production, improved quality of

products, time for relaxation, rec-

reation, study and community

work.

BUT ALONG with its benefits,

mechanization is creating an ag-

gravating problem. In cotton-grow-

ing areas, picking has been one of

the few manual operations remain-

ing. Now a mechanical picker that

gathers 13 bales of cotton per day

is on the market. When this inven-

tion is in common use, it will re-

lease thousands of women and

children for schools and homes

where they deserve to be.

The flame cultivator, now in

production, replaces 50 hoe

workers. Farm economists esti-

mate that within the next 10

years, mechanization alone will

push from six to eight million

Southern laborers from the

farms. These laborers, for the

most part, are unskilled and will

experience difficulty in securing

other employment. The social

and economic implications of

this change have profound mean-

ing not only for the South, but

for the Nation.

Tuskegee Institute does not

share the view of those who be-

lieve the difficulties created as a

result of mechanization are beyond

solution. The blacksmith, the

wheelwright, the shoemaker and

those associated with them were

jobless and discouraged when

motor vehicles and machines be-

came available in quantity. But

adjustments were made that not

only contributed to the success of

the unemployed, but to the prog-

ress of the Nation as a whole.

MANY OTHER displaced work-

ers have also been absorbed in

other industries, businesses or pro-

fessions. In industry, displaced

workers have not been forced to

suddenly shift to new occupations.

The process has been gradual. This

gradual change is true, to some ex-

tent, of the mechanization of agri-

culture in the South, although the

clothed, poorly housed, and sick  
mentally and physically, there is  
great need for courageous long-  
range planning for full-time em-  
ployment for all.Individual, community, State  
and National co-operative plan-  
ning and action can make mech-  
anization a blessing to the South  
and to the Nation.

## Old King Cotton

MECHANICAL cotton pickers fascinate us. For some years

we have watched them. We have followed each announce-

ment of a new revolutionary picker which has ironed the

kinks of earlier models and which put hand-picking out of

business. We have been amazed that mechanical pickers, if

they are as perfect as claimed, have made no more headway

than they have.

U. S. Department of Agriculture together with Missis-

sippi Agriculture Experiment Station, made a progress re-

port on use of the mechanical picker in Yazoo-Mississippi

Delta. It beats around the bush but a little reading between

lines reveals the machine picker picks a bale cheaper than

hand labor only if you pay hand labor pretty high wages.

The truth is at the wages now paid colored cotton pickers al-

most everywhere, hand pickers can pick a bale cheaper than

the machine can.

There are other factors. The machine is big but it is deli-

cate. The field has to be free from stones or bits of metal or

the expensive spindle is ruined. The cotton has to be planted

in rows mathematically spaced. And the machine-picked cot-

ton is dirty, full of sticks and stems, requiring special ginning.

Fields have to be completely free of grass and weeds.

In short, unless the long-staple story is different in the

southwest, the mechanical picker still has to prove itself.



# AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT NFA CONVENTION

BY WILLIAM GORDON

The 15th annual convention of the New Farmers of America adjourned here Friday, bringing to end, one of the most colorful and eventful meetings in the history of the organization. *Atlanta, Ga. Daily World* **Feb. 10-29-49**

The closing and final sessions of the convention were packed with last minute activities including committee meetings, election, installation of officers and presentation of awards and degrees.

The important phases highlighting the final sessions of the convention included the presentation of awards by NFA officials to 1949 agricultural winners which took in a broad program involving advanced techniques in agriculture.

The first prize for the most successful young farmer in the United States went to Leroy Sills of Waynesboro, Ga. selected as the winner of the H. O. Sargent award for 1949. Young Sills was a member of the New Farmers of America in the Waynesboro High and Industrial School from 1935 to 1949.

Sills attributes his interest and success in farming to the help he received from vocational agricultural instruction and the New Farmers of America. He is continuing his agricultural training in a veteran farmer training class and serves as secretary for the group.

NFA officials report that Sill's home farm is being operated on a high level of efficiency with fields being farmed on the contours and crops being fertilized in accordance with land capabilities.

The first place Farm and Home Improvement award went to Varnell Warren of Tyler, Texas.

Warren has been working actively since 1945 when he enrolled in a vocational agriculture class at Jackson High School, Tyler, Texas. Along with his regular activities on the farm he has held the following offices in the NFA and other organizations. President of the NFA chapter for two years, reporter for the chapter for two years, patrol leader in the Boy Scouts of America two years, and treasurer of his 4-H Club.

Preston Warren of Tyler, Texas was the winner of the National Farm Electrification award. Warren has been an active member of the Jackson NFA chapter. Warren plans to continue farming because he believes he has a good chance to succeed by the use of knowledge and skills acquired through his activities with the NFA.

Warren began his course in vocational agriculture in September 1947 and has remained active ever

since. *Daily World* Robert Bickman of Washington Parish, La., and Marshall Jefferson of Angie, La., two active members of the national organization were selected for the Superior Farmer Degrees. Both youngsters have been continuous members of the organization for more than three years, and have actively participated in activities of state and local associations. Both of these boys have satisfactory scholarship records and received high recommendations by officials in charge.

William Franklin Cross of Clarke County, Va., was the second place winner of the H. O. Sargent Award for 1949. Born near Berryville in Clarke County, Va., Cross attended the Clarke County Training School and entered the vocational agricultural department in 1939 and graduated in 1942 after completing four years of vocational agriculture.

Oliver Campbell of Monticello, Ga. was the first place National Dairy Farming winner.

Oliver Campbell is a senior in high school and a member of a family of five. In 1945, the 314 acre home farm was purchased through the Farm Credit Administration for \$3,500 and was paid for in full by March 1949, marking an unusual record for thrift and industry, and the family received a letter of commendation from the F. S. A.

Willie D. Magee Washington Parish, La. recognized as the National Farm Mechanics winner for 1949. Magee registered at the Washington Parish Training School as a day unit student in vocational agriculture, and during his first year his supervised farming program won high recognition among other contestants.

Magee has been an active member of Washington's NFA chapter for two years.

James Griffin was national award winner of Soil and Water Management in the 15th national NFA convention. *10-29-49*

Griffin, only 17 years of age, has studied vocational agriculture for three years, and is doing work above average in school subjects.

He owns a set of terracing instruments and some tools which may be used in terracing. Other property includes a tractor and terracing equipment for general work on the farm, such as a terracing plow, tractor disk, planters and a fertilizer distributor.

Activities of the convention of the New Farmers of America marked one of the most unique achievements brought to the city and the

## New Farmers of America

state in many years.

The program was highlighted with the presence of some of the country's leading educators and industrial figures, representing almost every phase of American industrial development.

Officials of the convention reported one of the most successful of all conventions held by the NFA during recent years.

## Young Va. Farmer Takes Top Honor for His Work

Net Worth Set at \$14,505; Others Win Prizes  
at National Session in Ga., Delegates Named

PETERSBURG, Va. — William F. Cross of Berryville, Va., received the New Farmers of America H. O. Sargent award for his accomplishments in becoming established in farming. William has a one-third interest with his father in a 131-acre Clark County farm and operates a 50-acre farm for himself. *Feb. 11-14-49*

His investment in his farming program amounts to \$10,998. in land, \$2,305. in equipment, \$2,072. in livestock, \$461 in feed on hand, and \$142 in food supplies on hand, a total inventory of \$15,978.

### \$14,505 Net Worth

His assets amount to \$16,505.85 his liabilities amount to \$2,000 making his net worth \$14,505.85. His livestock consists of one horse, three dairy cows, four calves, three beef cows, five sows and 25 fat pigs.

Roland F. Day, president of the Virginia Association of New Farmers of America, won the public speaking contest in thecome, Washington Section and took third place in the National Public Speaking contest. Day comes from Nelson, Va. He also participated in the Sectional NFA Quiz contest.

Robert L. Ellis of Surry County won the Farm Mechanics award. He is a partner with his father on a 120 acre farm and has \$795.81 invested in farm equipment. Theodore J. Berry of Bealeton, Va. won the section award in Dairy Farming. Theodore is a partner with his father in the dairy business.

### Improvement Award

The section award for Farm and Home Improvements went to Alfonso Smith of Smithfield, Va. The Modern Farmer of Virginia this year is William Brown of Farmington, Va. Delegates to the National Convention in Atlanta, *Oct. 25-29* were Bever-

## Texas Youth Elected Head of New Farmers of America

ATLANTA (ANP)—Dudley De Rouen of Raywood, Texas, was elected president of the New Farmers of America at its annual convention here last week. Over 300 youths, representing 28,000 members in 17 Southern States, attended the convention.

A feature of the convention was the bestowing of the honorary superior farmer degree on the following persons who have made outstanding contributions to the movement.

B. L. Bullock, professor of Rural Education, Atlanta University; James Camp, farmer of North Carolina; W. N. Elam, Office of Education, Washington; M. A. Fields, Virginia State College; W. A. Flowers, Tenn. State College; A. D. Fobbs, Alcorn A and M College; W. T. Johnson, West Virginia State College; L. A. Marshall, Florida A and M College; E. M. Morris, Prairie View State College, and W. E. Wood, Minifree, Ark.

### Other Officers of Group

Other officers elected for the year are: Unice Lasseter, Millen, Ga., first vice-president; Vernon Breckenridge, Okeene, Okla., second vice-president; James Williams, Ellerson, Va., third vice-president; Harold Hagins, Dade City, Fla., secretary; L. V. Leak, Chesterfield, S. C., treasurer; and Coleridge Huey, Cleveland, Miss., reporter.

The New Farmers of America have 30,000 members (young men) in 899 local chapters, located in 17 southern states. They have \$750,171 invested in farms and farm equipment.

ly Taylor of South Hill and David Summers, Williamsburg. James Williams, Ellerson, Va., was elected third vice president.

### WHITE ALA. POLICEMAN CLEARED IN MAN'S SLAYING

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—A jury of "his peers" Federal Court acquitted Orin Bush, white policeman who had slain a colored man, after 30 minutes of deliberation last week.

## NFA Meets In Atlanta

ATLANTA — Atlanta welcomed upwards of 300 delegates, advisers and workers of the New Farmers of America last week in the annual meeting with headquarters at the Butler Street YMCA. *Feb. 11-14-49*

City Councilman Archie Lindsey representing Mayor William B. Hartsfield, attended official welcome and at home. Dr. Harry V. Richardson, president of Gammon Theological Seminary, was among the citizens extending welcome.





NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA — This is the official group picture of the more than 200 delegates who are in attendance at the annual meeting of the New Farmers of America at the Butler Street YMCA. (Photo by Adair)

## OUR NEGRO COMMUNITY

### New Farmers Expect 300 For Rally Here Tuesday

The fifteenth annual convention of the New Farmers of America will begin a series of meetings in Atlanta Tuesday. More than 300 boys, teachers and supervisors are expected to attend.

The opening meeting will be held Tuesday night at the First Congregational Church. Speakers will be David T. Gideons, President of the Georgia Association, N.F.A.; Mayor Hartsfield; Dr. H. B. Richardson, President of Gammon Theological Seminary, and Charles Jackson, national first vice president. The public is invited.

Headquarters for the convention are in the Butler St. YMCA. Gideons, Principal of David T. Howard High School is chairman of the convention committees.

### Burke Negro Wins National Farm Award

Leroy Sills, of Waynesboro, received the H. O. Sargent Award of the New Farmers of America—national organization of Negro farm boys studying vocational agriculture—here last night as the fifteenth national NFA convention ended. The award is made annually to a former NFA member selected as

most successful young Negro farmer in the United States." A cash prize of \$250 and a plaque accompanied the award. Runner-up was William Cross, of Clarke County, Va.

Winners of other national prizes announced here were: Varnell Warren, of Tyler, Tex., farm and home improvement; Preston Warren, of Tyler, Texas, farm electrification; James Griffin, of Oak Ridge, La., soil and water management, and Oliver Campbell, of Monticello, dairy farming.

**900 Units  
Send Agents  
To Atlanta**  
Awards, Contests  
Are Main Features

### Of 15th Meeting

ATLANTA, Ga. — The national organization of New Farmers of America began its 15th annual convention at the Butler Street YMCA and First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 23. The closing date was to be Oct. 29.

More than 250 delegates representing 29,000 active members of 900 local chapters from the 17 southern and border states were listed as present.

The convention featured the culmination of the many activities sponsored during the past year. The outstanding members in supervised farming activities were to be elevated to the superior farmer degree.

### OTHER AWARDS

Those who made the greater accomplishments in becoming established in farming were recipients of the H. O. Sargent award.

Other awards were made in farm mechanics, dairy farming, farm and home improvements, farm and home electrification and

soil and water conservation by the Future Farmer of America Foundation.

### NATIONAL CONTESTS

There were national contests in public speaking, quartette singing, talent and NFA quiz on chapter conducting and parliamentary procedure.

Ten adults who have contributed to the success of the organization were scheduled to be made honorary superior farmers at an elaborate ceremony.

A steering committee of citizens of Atlanta, headed by Charles L. Gideons, principal, David T. Howard School, and Warren R. Cochran, executive secretary, Butler Street YMCA, prepared program for entertaining the convention. The welcome addresses were by the Honorable William Hartsfield, mayor of Atlanta, and Dr. H. B. Richardson, president of Gammon Theological Seminary. J. R. Thomas is executive secretary of this group.



# Atlanta Extends Hearty Welcome To New Farmers

**Gammon Prexy And Others In Warm Welcome Messages**

BY WILLIAM GORDON

and members, it has expanded to some 950 chapters and over 20,000 active members.

The New Farmers is a non-profit organization which has for its purpose the development of its members in their vocational, social and recreational life through established local chapters where vocational agriculture is taught.

The NFA, the New Farmers of America went into the first session of their national convention Tuesday night, when members and supervisors of the organization met at the First Congregational Church at which time they were welcomed to Atlanta by Archie Lindsey, city councilman.

*Atlanta, Ga.*  
Mayor William Hartsfield, scheduled to address the group was called out of the city on an emergency trip and sent Mr. Lindsey in his stead.

*Only need*  
In his remarks Mr. Lindsey praised the New Farmers for the contribution to agriculture and the country, and assured them a hearty welcome to Atlanta. The councilman, the youngest member on the City Council, told the group assembled that he wanted them to have a good time while in Atlanta and that they were free to enjoy all privileges the city has to offer.

*Wed.*  
The second welcome address was delivered by Dr. Mark V. Richardson, president of Gammon Theological Seminary, who praised the young farmers for being "the most significant group in the Negro race today," and stressed the importance of their productive power within the American economic order. Dr. Richardson said farmers "create wealth" and that their position in the economy of the country in the days to come, would be a most strategic one.

Tuesday night's ceremonies included the presentation of officers; national, and local; musical selections by the Booker T. Washington choral singers; and a selection by the Screven Chapter Quartet, a group of singers made up from the members of the NFA.

The activities for the evening were climaxed with a national quartet contest and a national NFA quizz contest, all coming from the membership ranks of the New Farmers of America organization.

## THE ORGANIZATION

The New Farmers of America is a national organization of farm boys, studying vocational agriculture in the public schools throughout the United States. Organized in Virginia in May 1927, with a few chapters



*Atlanta, Ga.*  
**NATIONAL NFA OFFICERS—**  
Officers of the New Farmers of America are pictured with their Executive Secretary, J. R. Thomas and R. W. Gregory, Assistant commissioner for vocational education, Office of Education Washington, D. C. Seated left to right J. R. Thomas, R. W. Gregory, Rupert Seals, national president, Lexington, Ky; Willard Dallas, treasurer, Ada, Oklahoma. Standing—Charles Jackson 1st Vice Pres. Rhodesdale, Md. Frank Harris, reporter, Covington Tennessee, Lloyd Milburn, 3rd vice president, Opelousas, La., Robert Jackson, 2nd vice president, Millbrook, Ala., Thomas Bittle, secretary Chesterfield, South Carolina.



Patients' Reading Room

# NHA Reports Completion Of \$2,000 Tuskegee Project

By DE LARS FUNCHES

(Special to The Courier)

JACKSON, Miss.—At its third national convention at Jackson College, June 2-4, the New Homemakers of America reported that it had completed an educational project at Tuskegee Institute at a cost of \$2,000.

The project, as reported by Charlene Smith, national secretary, is a reading room which has been made available for the patients in the infantile paralysis wards of Tuskegee.

New Homemakers of America is a national organization composed of pupils studying homemaking in junior and senior high schools of the sixteen Southern States where separate schools are maintained for Negroes.

The organization which is sponsored by the Home Economics Service of the United States Office of Education, adopted four classes of homemaking students of Liberia, West Africa. These adopted classes are to receive from the NHA books dealing with food, clothing and health.

Addressing the 300 delegates at the closing session of the convention, President Jacob L. Reddix of Jackson College charged the high school girls with the responsibility of helping the Negroes of America build a strong family life. "American family life," he said, "is deteriorating."

Officers elected for 1949-50 are Welletto Gladney, president, Oklahoma; Mary Foster, secretary, Alabama; and Wella Lipscomb, treasurer, West Virginia.

The national convention for 1950 will be held at Southern University, Baton Rouge, La.

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## North Carolina Farmer Awarded Corn Prize

RALEIGH, N. C.—(ANP)—V. D. Simmons of Cofield, who produced 127.6 bushels of corn on one acre this year, has been awarded \$100 first prize in the 1949 corn production contest for Negro farmers of Hertford county, reports Melvin L. Johnson, Negro county agent for the State College Extension service. Orville A. Moskie, a veteran trainee at the R. L. Vann High School, won second prize with a yield of 126.5 bushels. He received a check for \$30 and half a ton of 5-10 fertilizer. Armistead Sharp of Harrellsville, trainee at the C. S. Brown High School in Winston, won third prize consisting of \$20 and half a ton of fertilizer.

Simmons produced his yield by using 630 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer and 400 pounds of ANL at a total cost of \$27.50. The acre was covered with stable manure after a cover crop of rye last fall. He planted Dixie 17 in 22-inch rows and spaced 16 inches in the drill.

A total of 27 farmers, veterans, 4-H club and NRA members in the contest produced yields of 100 or more bushels per acre and thus qualified for membership in the North Carolina 100-Bushel Corn club. Eighteen others qualified for associate membership by producing 75 to 100 bushels per acre.

Prizes for the contest, donated by business firms in the area, were awarded at a Farmers day program held in Winton. Principal speakers were Dr. E. R. Collins, in charge of agronomy extension at State College, and L. Y. Ballentine State Commissioner of agriculture.

## Woman Gets \$1500 Yearly From Patch

HALIFAX, N.C.—Whether it's June or December, Mrs. Mary W. Palmer of this city has tomatoes, lima beans, peppers, and other vegetables growing in her truck patch, D. J. Knight county agent, announced last week.

Mrs. Palmer began growing vegetables during the war to help increase the nation's food supply.

Helped by Agent Mr. Knight showed her how to maintain a year-round truck crop, and she has been doing it ever since.

"My success," she says, "is due to studying the market and producing and selling products when other farmers are taking it easy. It takes little more work, but it pays."

Mrs. Palmer sells to stores and from house to house in three towns. Her gross income averages nearly \$1500 a year.



## Creek Co. Accepts Negro Farmers

*Blackton*  
SAPULPA — The Creek County Farm Bureau has announced that its members have voted 49-1 to permit Negro farmers of the county to become members of the organization and to offer them equal insurance benefits and legislative rights.

J. Morris, president of the bureau, stated that since the bureau is dedicated to better legislation for farmers are involved regardless of race.

The Creek County chapter is the only chapter in Oklahoma that has accepted the membership of all, though there are three other bureaus who have farmers actively working with them on a non-member basis.



# It's The Dirt That Counts, Okla. Farmer Proves As Fortune Soars

COYLE, Okla.—Oklahoma's top conservation farmer for 1949, Herbert J. Owens of Coyle, was really up against it trying to make ends meet before he began carrying out sound soil conservation practices on his 155-acre farm.

His story goes back to 1938, and 17 years of tenant farming before that. But Owens would like to forget the 17 grinding years of tenancy and begin counting from the year the Farmer Home Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture made him a loan and started him on the road to ownership.

However, Mr. Owens' problem didn't end with the farm-ownership loan. His soil was washing and blowing away through the exposure of row-crops on slopes, and his income was barely enough to meet the annual payments on his farm after he had taken care of his production expenses.

But in 1941—three years after purchase—upon the advice of his FIA supervisor, he went to his soil conservation district for assistance. A Soil Conservation Service technician was sent to his farm to help him plan a conservation program.

By last year, Owens, who could pay only \$39 as an installment on his farm in 1939, paid the Government \$1,655 as the final payment on his place, exactly 31 years ahead of his 40-year repayment schedule.

A breakdown of his income, which has averaged \$4,000 during the last three years, shows that he grosses over \$900 off hogs; nearly \$800 off eggs and chickens; about \$700 off certified alfalfa seed; over \$600 off milk; \$700 off beef cattle, and close to \$500 off fruits and vegetables.

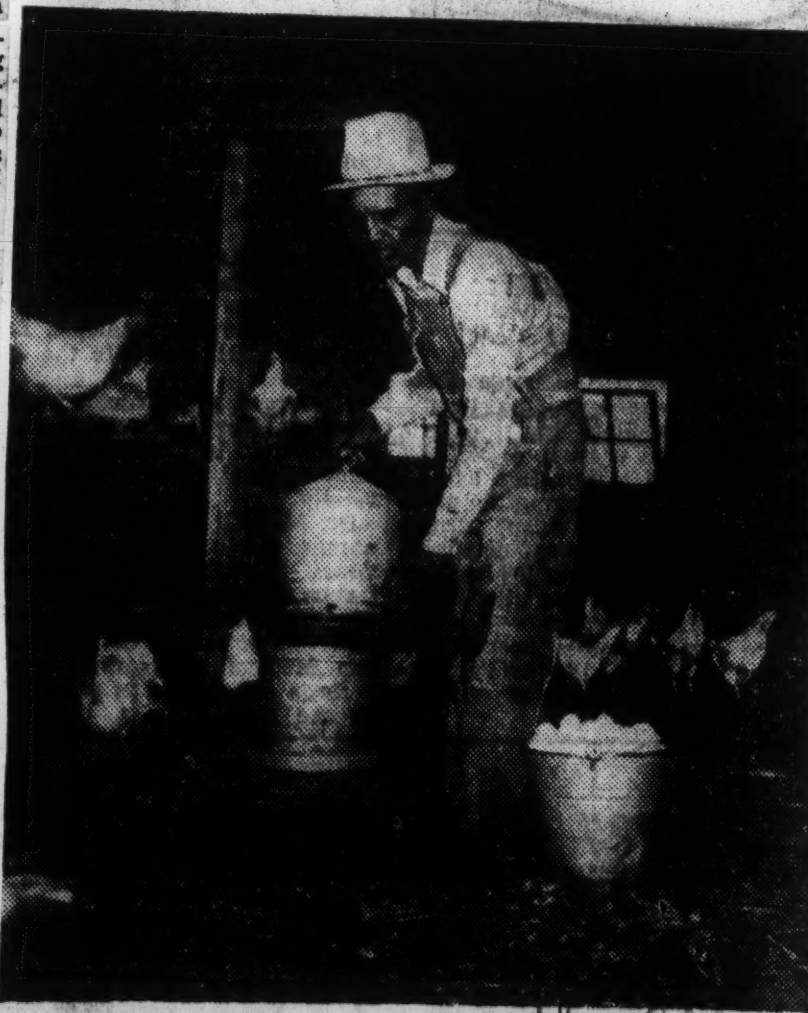
District Extension Agent Paul Brooks says that Owens has one of the best balanced farming programs in the state. His farm and home have become a kind of show place for the people of central Oklahoma.

Mrs. Owens takes pride in showing the visitors her stormcellar, which is stocked with home-grown foods. Inside her home, she points to her washing machine, electric iron, refrigerator and radio.

But the thing that he takes pride in is his land. In recognition of his well-developed soil conservation program, he was chosen the No. 1 Negro Soil Conservation Farmer in his state this year, and was

awarded \$100 at the Log Cabin, Ga., Southwide Soil Conservation Jamboree. Upon his return from Georgia, he was interviewed on a state-wide radio program.

## Eggs In Many Baskets



INVESTMENT IN poultry permits Farmer Herbert J. Owens of Coyle, Okla., to put eggs in many baskets, both figuratively and literally. He grossed \$800 off poultry and eggs last year, and extra money enabled him to cut down on row crops, thus conserving on topsoil. As result, he was awarded \$100 as best Negro soil conservation farmer in state.—U.S.D.A. Photo.



FARMING IS EASY when house and grounds have all the conveniences of city home. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Owens of Coyle, Okla., turn back some of profits of successful farm into up to date appliances. Wife of top Negro soil conservation farmer in state uses electric iron and washing machine, both of which run on current bought co-operatively.—U.S.D.A. Photo.



# Farmer Doubles Income By Adopting Conservation Practices

WASHINGTON — Oklahoma's top colored conservation farmer for 1949, Herbert J. Owens of Coyle, was really up against it trying to make ends meet before he began carrying out sound soil conservation practices on his 155-acre farm.

His story goes back to 1938 and 17 years of tenant farming before that. But Mr. Owens would like to forget the 17 grinding years of tenancy and begin counting from the year the Farmers Home Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture made him a loan and started him on the road to ownership.

However, Mr. Owens' problem did not end with the farm-ownership loan. His soil was washing and blowing away through the exposure of row-crops on slopes, and his income was barely enough to meet the annual payments on his farm after he had taken care of his production expenses.

But in 1941 — three years after purchase — upon the advice of his FHA supervisor, he went to his soil conservation district for assistance. A Soil Conservation Service technician was sent to his farm to help him plan a conservation program. A land-use map was drawn for his farm which called for shifting his row crops from the slopes of his bowl-like farm to level areas, and for seeding his slopes to alfalfa. Also, the map called for building additional terraces, repairing the existing ones, and establishing contour cultivation on the slopes.

This new pattern of farming, which resulted in a gradual shift from cotton to a rotation of corn, soy and small grain for his extended livestock and poultry program, doubled his income the first year.

By last year, Mr. Owens, who could pay only \$39 as an installment on his farm in 1939, paid the Government \$1,655 as the final payment on his place, exactly 31 years ahead of his 40-year repayment schedule.

A breakdown of his income, which has averaged \$4,600 during the last three years, shows that he grosses over \$900 off hogs, nearly \$800 off eggs and chickens, about \$700 off certified alfalfa seed, over \$600 off milk, \$700 off beef cattle, and close to \$500 off fruits and vegetables.

District Extension Agent Paul O. Brooks says that Mr. Owens has one of the best balanced farming programs in the States. His farm and home have become a kind of show-place for the colored farm people

of central Oklahoma. Three soil conservation field days have been held on his farm.

## Experts Pick Best Farmer In Alabama

GROVE HILL, Ala. — Eli-Jah Lynum of Manilla, Clarke county, was selected last week as Alabama's 1949 outstanding Negro soil conservation farmer.

He will attend the Log Cabin Jamboree in Georgia on August 19 to receive recognition for his agricultural accomplishments.

Lynum competed with winners from the state's 11 other soil conservation districts.

Following the introduction of a soil conservation plan for his farm in 1942, Lynum consistently improved badly run-down lands into productive acreage.

Corn yield was increased from 10 to 40 bushels per acre and he grows three-fourths of a bale of cotton to the acre. His cattle and hogs thrive on legumes and peanuts.

Lynum also serves as a training officer for the Veterans Administration and is now teaching a group of young war veterans agriculture in the Manila vicinity.

His trip to the Log Cabin jamboree is being sponsored by the Grove Hill chamber of commerce.

## Soil Conservation

# Technician Helped Him Halt Wasteful Erosion

Receipts Jumped From \$600 to \$3,500 Yearly; Farm Value Increased on 80 Acres

WASHINGTON — Ruben Gilley, top soil conservation farmer of Florida, has tripled his income by halting erosion on his land and building up its fertility. When he bought the first half of his 80-acre, sloping farm near Monticello, Fla., in 1937, after 19 years of sharecropping with his father, he used to lie awake nights trying to figure out how he could stop soil from washing away.

He had his wife and 10 children to feed, and yet, no matter how hard he worked, the first big rain always washed away his fertilizer and part of his remaining top soil. His total income from hogs, peanuts, sweet potatoes, corn, watermelons and cane syrup was only about \$500.

Then he joined an Extension Service tour in his county and was shown how terraces protected a neighbor's farm against erosion. Instead of the water rushing off down-hill, carrying top soil and fertilizer with it, the terraces held the water back, slowing down its run-off rate, and causing more of it to seep into the ground.

## Soil Technician Helps

The next week, his county agent and a neighbor helped him build terraces on some of his steeper slopes. Later, a Soil Conservation Service technician came to his place and helped him to make a complete soil and water

conservation plan for his whole farm.

Today, his corn yield averages better than 40 bushels per acre, and the yield of his other crops also is much higher. He carried out conservation practices on his farm so well that last August, he was acclaimed the champion colored soil conservation farmer of his State and was awarded \$100 at the Southwide Soil Conservation Jamboree at Log Cabin, Ga.

This year, he has sold 16 hogs, four calves, 1,900 bushels of sweet potatoes, a half a car of watermelons, 200 gallons of cane syrup, 300 pounds of pecans, and a few crates of oranges. His receipts total \$3,500, or about triple what his small yields brought him.

## Farm Value Increased

The value of his farm has in-

creased, too, as a result of these practices. "I paid only \$10 an acre for my land," says Mr. Gilley, "but I have been offered as much as \$50 an acre for it."

Five years ago, the Gilleys built and furnished a comfortable five-room home. (Most of the children have grown up and moved away.) Also, Mr. Gilley and his sons have set out 150 pecan trees, and have enlarged their orange grove.

"My wife and I and the children are looking ahead," declared Mr. Gilley. "At 52, I'm just beginning to live."



# Georgia Farmers Pioneer

BY BENJAMIN F. HUBERT

On Friday, August 19, Georgia again exemplify great vision and realistic leadership in Soil Conservation, Soil Improvement, and Better Farming. On that date, there will be held at Log Cabin Center, the annual meeting of the outstanding Negro practical achieving farmers from the whole South. There will be 13 states participating, looking like this gathering of colored men who have achieved on the land, has ever been held at any other place in the South. It is highly significant that this movement to improve opportunities for black folk on the land, had its origin in Georgia. It is also most encouraging and inspiring that colored people, themselves pioneered in making this meaningful "get-together" a wonderful success.

In the Atlanta Ga. Convention, the Soil Conservation Jambores, sponsored jointly by the United States Soil Conservation Service and the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life, the leaders of both race groups, North and South, regardless of race, creed, or condition, have not been afraid to move forward, working together for common objectives. This coming together on the land, again calls attention to the fact that the soil is all important and most fundamental to human welfare and progress. Georgia's challenging leadership in Soil Conservation and in Soil Building and Better Farming is now fully recognized and appreciated throughout the nation. It is this type of leadership, stimulated, largely, by black folk themselves, that is challenging the whole Southland.

## OKLAHOMA SELECTS

The Central Office of the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life, Inc., at Log Cabin Center, has just received notification from the Oklahoma Soil Conservation Service that Herbert J. Owens, of Coyle, Oklahoma, has been selected as the winner for Oklahoma in the Southwide Soil Conservation Contest for 1949.

## DR. CALDWELL SPEAKER

Dr. Harmon W. Caldwell, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, will be the key speaker at the 1949 Soil Conservation Jambores. Dr. Caldwell, is widely known for his deep and sustained interest in and enthusiasm for rural life. He is a product of a Georgia farm, located near Greenville, Georgia. He is an owner-operator of a Georgia farm himself. The United States Soil Conservation Service and the

Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life, Inc., feel that we are most fortunate to have Dr. Caldwell as the guest speaker for this occasion. The state champion farmers from Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas, with a host of friends, will be on hand to witness this occasion and to hear Dr. Caldwell.

The winners from the different states will each receive a prize of \$100 in cash, and a certificate of achievement. The top winner for the nation will receive an additional prize of \$50.00. There will be other leading speakers for this occasion. It is expected that P. H. Stone, Director of Negro Extension Service in Georgia, will be on hand with Negro County Agents from every county in Georgia. Stone will be expected to introduce Director Walter Brown of the State Extension Service, who will deliver an address. *June 6-8-49*

## FARMERS SHOULD PIONEER

It has always been our feeling that Negro farmers on the land should pioneer in making life on the farm economically, socially, and spiritually satisfying. What has been done at Log Cabin Center, to inform and inspire colored farm people, is nothing less than remarkable. Negroes, themselves, have done the pioneering. They started off with a program for Log Cabin Community. They later set up a program for the Piedmont Soil Conservation District. This includes seven Georgia counties, with Log Cabin as the radiating center. Then this program was expanded so as to include the whole state of Georgia. Later every state in the South was invited and challenged to participate in a Soil Building and Land Improvement Contest for Negroes who live on the land.

This year colored farmers in the Georgia Piedmont District will receive certificates and \$315.00 in cash awards.

Not only has no one attempted to hinder Negroes, but men of all races and creeds, North and South, have joined hands in an all out effort to have Negroes expanded and magnify and improve opportunities for black folk on the farm.

**U. S. Offered Farm Plan For South**  
*The Push*  
*Washington D.C.*

## The South Economists' Study Contains Proposals Similar to Those In Brannan Scheme

*May 6-20-49*  
By John W. Ball  
Post Reporter

A new farm plan, embodying many proposals recently made by Agriculture Secretary Brannan has been offered by two Southern economists.

The plan is contained in a study of why the South has failed to keep up with the rest of the country economically and of how suggested Federal policies 'could aid it. It was made for the Council of Economic Advisers by economists of the National Planning Association.

It is the first regional economic study made for CEA. In its 154 pages it upsets many ideas of long standing on the reasons for the South's economic lag.

## Both Are at Duke

The authors are Dr. Calvin B. Hoover, director of research for the NPA Committee of the South, and Dr. B. R. Ratchford. Both are on the staff of the economics department of Duke University.

The primary aim of Federal policy toward the South should be to raise its low per capita wealth and income, the authors state. These, they add, stem from the low ratio of natural resources to population. This, in turn, is responsible for the low level of physical production in the South.

However, the authors point out, this low ratio of natural and capital resources to population, resulting in low productivity, is not entirely responsible for low per capita income. Much of this, it states, is due to an unfavorable exchange of Southern goods and services for goods and services produced elsewhere.

"Historically," the report says, "the South has produced bulk agricultural commodities embodying much manual labor and has manufactured commodities which also embody much labor."

## "Administered Prices"

"Until quite recently these commodities were sold under market conditions approximating those of free competition, except as our tariff limited the international market for those goods."

"The commodities which the South purchased, by contrast, were generally produced and sold under conditions of monopolistic

competition characterized by 'administered prices.'"

Improvement in this situation has been brought about by "intervention of the State," the report points out—such as in cotton and tobacco.

"Although the South has made substantial progress in overcoming the economic lag behind the rest of the country in the past 20 years, much remains to be done," the authors say.

"The fundamental means by which the economic lag can be overcome is through the increase in productivity and value of output of Southern industry and agriculture."

## Diversified Crops Called Need

"This means that the South must have more industry and the kind of industry in which the value of output per worker is higher."

"It means an agriculture of fewer uneconomically small farms and of more medium-sized farms employing fewer people with larger output per capita and with greater diversification in crops."

These trends in both industry and agriculture already exist, the authors assert. Because of them the per capita income in the South has increased faster than for the country as a whole in the past 15 years. Even so, it is below the rest of the country.

Federal policies have aided these trends greatly, the report says, and "can continue to be of great aid in accelerating the rate of change." "The Federal Government cannot carry out operations which will produce greater income in industry and agriculture," they declared. "This must be done by private individuals and corporations."

## Old Theories Discounted

The authors point out that if full employment for the Nation as a whole is not maintained, it will be "virtually impossible to carry out an effective program for the economic progress of the South."

However, in making specific suggestions for future Federal policy, the authors take into account the effects of such policies during periods of depression as well as in times of full employment.

Among the many old-time arguments advanced to explain the South's economic lag, and discounted by the report, are:

1. The protective tariff "imposed by the North on the South."
2. Higher freight rates in the South.
3. Absentee ownership of Southern industry.
4. Wage differentials between the South and the rest of the country.
5. "That hoary old standby," the

These oft-repeated arguments.

The report says, "are actually either of minor importance or are not truly causal."

## Plan Has Four Points

The authors point out that Southern agriculture cannot be prosperous until the uneconomical small-sized farm gives way to a larger operation—the medium-sized farm. This means that the per capita income of farmers cannot be increased until fewer persons are engaged in it.

But to accomplish that transition, they aver, employment opportunities for farmers who would be displaced would have to be provided.

The farm program proposed is in four points.

1. Extension of such Federal activities as research in agricultural colleges and experiment stations, erosion control and soil conservation, and the Federal-State extension system.

2. Extension of loans for soil improvement, etc., by local banks at reasonable rates.

3. Continuation of the loan policy of Farmers Home Administration for improving productive efficiency.

4. Their proposal for income supports.

This proposal has many of the elements of the program put forward by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan on April 7. It provides a similar system of compensatory payments—payments to farmers of the difference between a support level and the price farmers get for their products in the market.

## "Forward Pricing" Proposed

Under this program the Government would guarantee farmers 85 per cent of a "normal market price." The normal market price would be one which, under conditions of high demand and reasonably full employment, would induce the production of neither a surplus nor a deficit.

If the price of a product fell below 85 per cent of this normal market price farmers would be paid the difference from the Treasury. *Washington D.C.*

The program would involve dependence on "forward pricing" by the Government, so that farmers would have a guarantee against price fluctuations. This forward pricing would be based on an estimated normal price together with compensatory payments to maintain farm income.

If crop restrictions are imposed, the authors suggest that specific soil conservation and improvement practices be required as a condition for receiving benefits.

the Brannan Plan will have more appeal to cotton and tobacco farmers themselves.

The report gave detailed attention to the way the proposal would work for cotton and tobacco, the South's two major cash crops. It compares the proposal to the Brannan Plan for these two crops.

The authors' program, they say, would be less costly to consumers of cotton and tobacco as well as to taxpayers. However, they admit controls would be used.

Two Plans Are Compared

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The main source for capital funds must be investments by large national companies from outside the region. Another would be borrowing by Southern companies.

But, they add, "the great mass of small and medium-sized Southern companies will have to depend upon local financing. They suggest an intensive survey to determine the legitimate need for business capital and the resources available to meet that need.

Here they suggest the Government extend bank deposit insurance to cover 100 per cent of all deposits. They suggest also that the United States instruct the Treasury to watch the regional flow of funds in any period of financial tension and to move Treasury deposits to counteract any pronounced tendency for funds to leave any one region.

3. Labor and wages. The authors do not believe that the higher wages Southern industrial labor now is getting have slowed up industrial expansion.

4. Natural resources: Their recommendations state: "Forest conservation and development should be expanded . . . Soil conservation should be expanded . . . Undeveloped water power should be harnessed . . . There is urgent need for more analysis by mining engineers, chemists and economists to appraise the possibilities of the minerals in the South."

#### **Other Advice Sought**

The report was delivered to the Economic Advisers last Friday. E. J. Coil, NPA director, said the authors have consulted regularly all members of the NPA Committee of the South for criticism and suggestions during the year they have been employed on the study.

"CEA thus is receiving not only the authors' expert analyses," Coil says, "but a report that takes into account the experience and judgment of a cross section of Southern leaders."



## C. Farmers Have Cure for Soggy Fields

WASHINGTON, D. C. —

Months after heavy rains, roads are soggy that only a wagon and horse could go over them and good land is lying idle for want of drainage.

The picture the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture paints of the Elmore community near Orangeburg, S. C., as it looked about a year ago. But today, it's different due to the application of soil conservation work.

Colored farmers in the community, recognizing the need for drainage, got together and went to the Soil Conservation District for help. L. L. Tillson, a SCS technician, made a drainage survey for the group, a contract was let and a long drainage ditch was cut.

Since the completion of this project, SCS says that fields may be mowed within eight to ten days after a heavy rain, crops are growing where nothing but weeds grew before and automobiles are being driven over the roads which have been improved with the spoil of the drainage ditch.

M. E. Williams, first leader of the group, lived to see the drainage project completed. After his death, Walter Dash was chosen leader of the seven-man group.

"It's a good feeling to know that we won't be losing your fertilizer and work because of flood water," says the new leader. Already he has cleared for crops acres that heretofore have been too wet to cultivate.

M. E. Williams, State leader of Extension work and brother of the former leader of the Elmore group, was so impressed with the results of the drainage project when he observed it that he took Dean Marcellus Staley of South Carolina State College over to see the project.

During the tour of farms in the Conservationist Joe B. Earle, the dean to see one farm where he observed land being planted and cropped in accordance with its capability for safe use. After completing the tour, Dean Staley said that the trip to the farm, which was owned by E. B. Staley, was equivalent to a year's study of agriculture in college.

Dean Staley has obtained the plan of the Orangeburg District in developing a complete soil and conservation plan for the community.

# Former S. C. Bought Birthplace Within Seven-Year Period on FHA Aid

GREENVILLE, S. C.—Maydee Smith of Fountain Inn a sharecropper before the Farmers Home Administration bought him the same farm on which he was born thirty-six years ago, has made his 84-acre investment into a model farm in a scant seven years of ownership.

His production program gained more and more momentum as Smith applied the newest farm practices and techniques. Some he learned from the FHA supervisor who helped him get the loan, and others he gleaned from watching the latest farm management developments that could be tailored to fit his individual needs.

It's an understatement to say Maydee Smith is a hard worker. His industry and enterprise helped build up the eighty-four acres until they now compare with any in the county. He has eight milk cows, two mules, three hogs and a new litter of pigs, a substantial farm home and well-developed pasture lands. He follows some of the best strip cropping and terracing methods devised anywhere.

## BUILDINGS ABOVE AVERAGE

Smith's holdings are bolstered by better than average outbuildings and water is supplied by three natural creeks running through the farm, one of which he plans to dam in the near future for an irrigation pond.

Back in his sharecropper days he remembers when cotton was selling for a ridiculously low figure, vegetables were worth no more than the nutritional value derived by the family for table use, and corn could be given away on the streets. Remembering this he made his mind he would do all in his power to have a balanced farming program to eliminate as far as possible the hazards of one-crop farming.

He bought his farm with a Government loan in 1942 and has never missed a payment except in the war when a million-dollar haul and a storm put most of the low-income farmers on the verge of

failure, fencing, obtaining or improving foundation livestock, using improved varieties of seed, adequate fertilization and pest control measures.

Maydee Smith meets every one of these requirements in full and usually does a little more than is required. Mrs. Smith and the six children who complete the family all are doing their share to keep the eighty-four-acre farm enterprise a going concern. Here's a case where industry, ability and cooperation are paying dividends.

last year. The Government made sure he didn't get stung in the deal although the land was badly eroded.

The supervisor showed him how to stop the erosion by using terracing, strip-cropping and kudzu in the worst places. Today there is not a single gully left on the farm and the land is actually more as productive as it was in

his tenant days. Flourishing vegetable patches and watermelon patches white and yellow hybrid corn fully ten feet high and waist-high cotton are some of the visible proof that he has made a success of farming.

He also converts surplus vegetables into quick cash. This year he raised okra on a little used plot of ground near one of the creeks. It has earned him more than \$200 and he was still picking a few weeks ago. While this amount may seem small, it amounts to about one-fifth of his annual loan payment, completion of which is about thirty years at this present schedule will make the farm debt free.

L. M. Verdin, county supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration, has been keeping a weather eye on the Smith farm lately because it is being used as a pilot farm to show other Farmers Home borrowers in the community what can be accomplished by those who cooperate with the supervised credit program of the agency.

Loans must result in substantial farm and home improvements. Families cooperating with the FHA program are encouraged to participate in other agricultural programs and use the latest methods of farming.

Fundamental adjustments such as application of basic soil treatment, establishing improved pas-



## Contestants From Four States Live in "Live-At-Home" Test

# Tennessee Farm Pair Hits Jackpot In Memphis Cow Test

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cooper of Hayti, Missouri, were named grant sweepstakes champions in the 1949 Commercial Appeal's "Live-at-Home" Contest last week. To win this honor they defeated 61,302 colored contestants entered from Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

For making the most outstanding record in living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification and home improvement they received \$250 from the Memphis Chamber of Commerce and a handsome meat and vegetable cooker from the Commercial Appeal, also a Certificate of Honor testifying to their ability and industry as farmers.

Presentation was made at the 12th Annual Live-at-Home Rally at Booker T. Washington High School before some 850 county winners, their families, representatives of the press, business and agricultural leaders. Martin Zook, director of the Chamber of Commerce Agricultural department made the award.

### CURTIS SPEAKS

Principal speaker was Dr. Austin W. Curtis, Jr., founder and president of Curtis Laboratories in Detroit, formerly a student to the late D. George Washington Carver, famous Tuskegee scientist. A former sharecropper, WPA day laborer, and tenant farmer, Roy Cooper and his wife, Louise, parents of 10 children, today own a debt-free 103-acre farm purchased through the Farmers Home Administration in 1939. By dint of hard work, intelligent planning and wise use of money and land, they have paid for their homestead 30 years ahead of schedule.

The Coopers tried for sweepstake honors two years in succession. In 1947 they were Missouri state landowner champions. They were nosed out for the grand champion prize then and again last year. But Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are firm believers in the old axiom, "If at first you don't succeed

try, try again." They did and this year their persistence paid off in the jackpot.

This is the first time a Missouri farm family had won sweepstakes honors. Arkansas has won four times, Tennessee, five and Mississippi twice.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper's inventory revealed six cash income sources this year. They sold \$3558 worth of cotton, \$685 worth of hogs, \$436 worth of soybeans, \$242 worth of turkeys, \$150 worth of milk and \$38 worth of eggs. In addition, this large family lived so well at home that they spent only \$156 for food, during the year, that could not be grown on the farm. The farm also produced \$1895 worth of food for family use and they now have on hand a food inventory valued at \$2319. They showed a net gain of 380 in feed and seed for the year from \$685 on Jan. 1 to \$1065 on Dec. 1.

### BIG SCALE FARMING

Crops grown this year included 33 acres in cotton, 15 in corn, 17 in beans, eight in alfalfa, eight in pasture and three acres in oats. The Coopers seeded vetch on 22 acres.

Discussing life on the farm, Mr. Cooper said: "I was born on a farm 49 years ago and have lived on a farm ever since. I worked with my parents until marriage in 1926. We then rented a 40-acre place. But the depression in the '30s started me sharecropping again. I sharecropped until 1939. "About this time my family started growing so rapidly I was forced to get a WPA job. But this wasn't enough. I was fortunate to get a loan through Farmers Home Administration, only at that time it was called Farm Security. I paid out 30 years ahead of schedule."

### BETTER LIVING

In commenting on what the Live-at-Home competition and the Farmers Home Administration program have meant to the Cooper family, Mr. Cooper said: "It has meant a higher standard of living

for all of us. It has also brought about better farming practices and caused us to take a deeper interest in our home."

Continuing, he said: "My wife has canned and preserved most of the food supply the family uses. She has made and repaired clothing for the children and improved our home in many ways. I have rotated my crops according to plans worked out with our County Agent, the Farmers Home Supervisor and Soil Conservation experts."

"I plowed under 21 acres of vetch this year, 10 acres of other green manure crops, spread 22 tons of barnyard manure, cleared a mile of ditches, limed and seeded an eight-acre fescue and land pasture and purchased a new tractor and equipment. "We built a tool shop and shed and kept the family well and the children in school all year. Three of the boys are in college and the other children are in grade and high school."

### ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper take an active part in all community affairs. They attend church regularly and Mr. Cooper is a member of the Farm Bureau and Mrs. Cooper belongs to the Homemakers Club and is also a 4-H Club leader. The children belong to the 4-H Club, two of the boys are members of the New Farmers of America and two others are members of the Boy Scouts.

Cash prizes totaling \$950 were presented to the following State winners by Walter Durham, director, Commercial Appeal's Plant-to-Prosper bureau:

Arkansas — Landowner Division: Cotton Blair, Altheimer, \$50; Clarence Ashford, Wynne, \$25; Silas Dolphin, Helena, \$15; Eddie Wood, North Little Rock, \$10;

Tenant Division: Alson Blackburn, Blytheville, \$50; Dozell Richmond, El Dorado, \$25; Lot Spight, Forrest City, \$15; W. D. Jacobs, Kingsland, \$10; Home Improvement Division: Gilbert Duncan, Tyrone, \$25.

Tennessee — Landowner Division: Walthre H. Gregory, Route 2, Bells, \$50; A. G. Greer, McLemoresville, \$25; Leland Parker, Springville, \$25; Robert Porter, Lucy, \$10; Tenant Division: Felix Chapman, Jackson, \$50; Hulie Shaw, Whiteville, \$25; Sidney R. Bond, Brownsville, \$15; John Townsend, Ellen Dale, \$10; Home Improvement Division: Ella P. Davis, Route 1, Toone, \$25.

Missouri — Landowner Division: David Burnett, Wyatt, \$50; John Alexander, Pascola, \$25; Clarence Richards, Route 1, Matthews, \$15; Thomas Wright, Route 1, Matthews, \$10; Tenant Division: John Tate, Wyatt, \$50; Money Wilson, Pascola, \$25; Will Winters, Wyatt, \$15; Ezra Cain, Morley, \$10; Home Improvement Division: Frank Ward, East Prairie, \$25.

Mississippi — Landowner Division: David Spights, Route 3, New Albany, \$50; Emmett Ford, Mound Bayou, \$25; Mose Mason, Box 350, Greenville, \$15; Ora Branson, Route 1, Sharon, \$10; Tenant Division: Perry Joe Williams, \$50; Autrey Jones, Route 3, Holly Springs, \$25; Mose Morton, Route 1, Drew, \$15; Augus Hurt, Route 1, Love, \$10; Home Improvement Division: Mose Morton.



# Buying Land With 40-Yr. U. S. Loans

Feb. 25-49

(Special to The Courier)

AMES, Tex.—It's not unusual to see farmers who cultivate comparatively small tracts of land enjoying incomes up to \$10,000 annually in this Central Texas farm community, according to John McGrath, district supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration.

This fact was revealed recently in an all-day meeting of families who are buying their farms with forty-year loans from the Government. Most of the farmers in this community are Catholics and they have been given friendly assistance and encouragement by their pastor Father John Doyle, of Mother Mary Catholic Church at Ames.

Among those who attended the all-day meeting was 54-year-old Joe Beverly, whose 241-acre farm in the China community grossed him more than \$10,000 last year. As a matter of fact Beverly has been enjoying that sort of income for several years.

## TEN ACRES OF OKRA

Paul D. Collette, 43, farms 155 acres five miles west of Dayton. His farm yielded more than \$8,900 worth of products last year and included in this sum was \$5,300 worth of okra which he harvested from ten acres.

Then there was Clebert Page, 55, who owns 163 acres of upland farm seven miles west of Dayton. On ten acres last year he harvested \$4,000 worth of okra alone. He also produced fifty-five acres of rice, twelve acres of assorted vegetables, twenty acres of cotton and the same amount of corn. When asked about how much time he puts in on this busy farming schedule, Page laughed and said: "Actually I work about half my time. The other half I rest." He figures he netted about \$6,000 from all crops last year.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding achievements was reported by Emile Fontenot, 29-year-old Ames farmer, who, by the way, is a member of Father Doyle's church. His 27-acre farm, he estimates, paid him \$300 a month last year. "The way I figure it," he said, "I would have had to earn more than \$300 a month in city employment to enjoy the same standard of living as we had on

our small farm." He has a wife and two children.

## ADORE PRIEST

The community is very religious and the farmers adore the priest who hails from Maine but has become a real Texan. His parishioners say he is beginning to talk like one. Another man they rate high is Mr. McGrath of the Farmers Home Administration, which has made it possible for them to buy and pay for their farms with loans that run for forty years at 4 per cent interest.

Although the loans were made on a forty-year basis most of the farmers have paid off in full within five years.

Operating on the theory that there is "glory enough for us all," McGrath seeks the help and cooperation of other agencies and people such as county and home demonstration agents of the State Extension Service, Soil Conservation experts and leading citizens. "I couldn't get anywhere without their help," he says.

Working closely with the farmers of the community is E. A. Palmer, Liberty County's agent. Palmer is a Baptist but smiled and said, "I attend the Catholic Church as much as I do mine."

One of the group achievements Father Doyle and McGrath, who is a Methodist, are proudest of is the formation of the Ames Produce Co-operative Service which was launched in April, 1945.

## CO-OPERATIVE MOVE

The co-operative is owned by the farmers themselves and they financed it with paid-in capital of \$15,000. It is composed of 156 members who own from one share valued at \$5 up to the limit of 200 shares or \$1,000. Several farmers own 200 shares of stock.

One of the first purchases made by the co-op was a 1½-ton truck for \$2,100. The farmers have used the truck to haul their vegetables and livestock to the Houston market. Seven members of the co-op service signed notes for the money to buy the truck and their notes were secured by a mortgage on one of their cows each. In addition the Farmers Home Administration took an additional lien on the truck in the amount of one-seventh of its value.

The co-op charges \$15 a trip to Houston for use of the truck and this expense is shared by the farmers in proportion to the amount of their shipments. The truck has been paid for long ago. The truck proved to be a boon to the farmers enabling them to get 40 per cent more for their produce at the markets. It makes an average of five trips per week to Houston and during the past three years has moved \$40,000 worth of produce annually.

Previously the farmers had depended on the buyers coming out from the cities and generally the buyers paid a ridiculously low price for the farmers' best produce. "The co-op truck has changed that story," Father Doyle said.

Here are brief thumbnail sketches of some of the farmers who are making hay with their loans from the Farmers Home Administration:

Fontenot, World War II veteran, who owns twenty-seven acres from which he averages \$300 a month, plants ten acres of corn, one and one-half acres of sweet potatoes, one-fourth acre of Irish potatoes and maintains an eight-acre pasture of lespedeza. In the poultry department he has seventy-five pullets, 400 fryers for market and 130 laying hens which net about \$8 per hen annually. Fontenot is paying off his Farmers Home loan at the rate of \$30 per month and now owes about \$400 on his original loan of \$21,000. His ambition is to own about one hundred acres eventually.

Paul Collette bought his 155-acre farm in 1941. Original cost was \$6,500 and he has reduced his debt to less than \$1,500. He has twelve children of whom eight are boys. Last year he planted twelve acres of cotton which returned \$1,200; twenty-two acres of corn which produced fifty bushels to the acre at \$1.50 per bushel; ten acres of okra which brought \$5,300 or better than \$500 per acre; two acres of blue hull peas worth \$300 and he sold \$400 worth of cattle.

Page, who "worked half my time" and made his farm pay \$6,000, grew twelve acres of vegetables, twenty acres of corn, (thirty-five bushels to the acre) and ten acres of okra which brought \$4,000.

Albert Johnson, 43, who owns 112 acres of debt-free farmland with improvements valued at \$3,000, has eighteen acres of corn, thirteen head of cattle, and his wife raised 2,600 baby chicks which returned a net profit of 55 cents each.

Joe Beverly, who grossed \$10,000, farms 100 acres in rice, twelve acres in corn, has twenty head of cattle, twenty-two chickens and recently built a \$4,000 home on his 241-acre farm.

Most of these families have deep freeze units, all modern conveniences in their homes and tractors and other labor-saving equipment on their farms.



# Many Virginia Farmers Grow Hogs For Smithfield Hams

Virginia

WASHINGTON— When Smithfield, Va., boasts of its delicious hams, as good many Virginia colored farmers take pride in that boast, because they supply some of the hogs from which the hams are cured.

Take Mr. and Mrs. John W. Roberts of Sandy Mount, Va., they sell over 100 hogs every year to Smithfield packers. Some years, they grossed as much \$20,000 off hogs and peanuts.

Hogs, corn, and peanuts have been the main crops of the Robertses ever since they married and got started in farming in 1917. Mr. Roberts recalls that he had only \$2.50 left after he paid for the marriage license.

They started out as tenants on 40 acres, but by producing the kind of hogs which brought a good price, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts soon had enough to make the down payment on 55 acres. With in two years, they had paid for the land, and bargained to buy 195 acres more.

Today, they own a 250-acre modern farm on which they raise annually, 150 hogs, 2,500 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of peanuts and 300 chickens. Also, they have a fourth-acre garden and three milk cows which helps meet their home food needs.

Their equipment includes a tractor, a truck, a peanut picker, a corn sheller, a corn crusher, a manure spreader, mowing machine, wood saw, and dusting machine.

## CARES FOR MACHINERY

Mr. Roberts takes good care of his machinery and of his land, too especially the acres devoted to corn, peanuts, and hog ranges. Last year he applied 25 tons of lime to his ranges and other cropland. Also he planted cover crops.

The Robertses know that by conserving their soil, they will be able to pass it along to their seven children in a highly productive state. They know, too, that good soil practices produce better crops and better hogs for Smithfield hams.

They not only lean on their farm and home agents for technical advice which will help them do a better job of farming and of living, but they also carry out demonstrations projects which benefit both them and their neighbors.

Last year, the farm and home agents, Woodrow Odom, and Mrs. Clarice Pretlow, conducted a tour of their farm for the farmers of Isle Wight County. Families from

as far as 20 miles away came to see how the Robertses operated their farm and their home.



## Report 17,000 More Hired Workers On Southern Farms

*Atlanta Ga. Daily World*  
*C. Grant*

WASHINGTON— (ANP)— There were 17,000 more hired workers on farms of the South during the latter part of November than during the same period a year ago, says the farm labor report issued last week by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The gain was shown in the West South Central states - Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas-- where 286,000 hired workers were employed. Cotton picking in the region was about over, except in the western part of Oklahoma and Texas, flax seeding and truck crop operation were on schedule.

In Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee, farmers were finishing up their harvest of cotton and corn. Considerable farm labor was employed in Tennessee and Kentucky to strip and market tobacco.

Twenty-two Virginia colored 4-H boys and girls won award this year in the State wide Home or Market Garden and Truck Crop contest, reports Ross W. Newsome, State agent of Extension Service.

The top winners were: Elnora M. Williams of Greenville county and George D. Scott of Caroline county. Each will receive a \$25 U. S. Savings Bond during the 1950 State Course at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.



## Migrant Workers Receive Warning

Southern migrant workers planning to go North to work in the Connecticut tobacco fields are being urged to take precautions by Travelers Aid.

"Unless agricultural workers have received actual confirmation of a tobacco job waiting for them they may be in for a real disappointment when they get to Connecticut," according to Mrs. Mary Athearn, Executive Secretary of the Atlanta Travelers Aid Society.

"Reports just received from our Travelers Aid Societies in Connecticut warn that local labor is being used this year for the tobacco harvest and that many southern migrant workers accustomed in previous years to finding jobs there are now stranded."

The Hartford Society has received requests for emergency help from more than 60-teen-age migrant workers in the last two weeks.



# Peonage Charged To Mississippi Trio

*Memphis Times*

JACKSON, Miss.—(ANP)—A federal grand jury here last week indicted three white men, one a former deputy sheriff, all residents of Smith county, charging them with a peonage violation.

Named in the indictment, returned at the Biloxi term of the court, were former Deputy Sheriff J. O. Ainsworth, Case Lingo Walker and Thomas Ray Walker. Each was released under \$750 bond after appearing in Jackson before U. S. Commissioner Barron Rickerts. They were brought here by U. S. Deputy Marshals B. A. Bush and J. W. Daniels.

*Jul. 7-15-49*  
The indictment alleged that the trio arrested a Negro, Kenneth Duckworth, for the purpose of causing him to be returned to a condition of peonage. It was likewise stated that Duckworth was arrested to work out a debt that he owed to the Walkers. The case will be heard during the November term in Jackson before Judge Sidney O. Mize.



## A CITY UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM SOLVED ON THE FARMS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY



Strawberry pickers at work upstate, growers having hired them for the season through the cooperation of the United States Employment Clearance Service and the Puerto Rican Employment Bureau in New York.

## PUERTO RICANS AID UP-STATE FARMERS

*The Times New York N.Y. Thu. 6-16-49*  
Experiment in Transplanting Labor for Berry Picking Called a Success

165 IN TWO COLONIES

Islanders Recruited in City Said to Enjoy Return to Farm Atmosphere

By WARREN WEAVER  
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
NEVIS, N. Y., June 15—A summer colony of 165 hardy Puerto Ricans is taking root in the rolling fruit-laden farmland of Dutchess County in a highly successful ex-

periment aimed at easing the local farm-labor shortage.

For the second successive year a group of local fruit growers has recruited a team of former islanders to aid in the harvest of the flourishing strawberry crop, bringing them from new homes in New York City to a livelihood and atmosphere more reminiscent of the land of their birth.

Take Fernando Gomez, for instance. For the last year he has lived at 233 Avenue C, in Manhattan, but for thirty-one years before that his home was Aquadilla, P. R. There, from his childhood days, he worked in the sugar cane fields, wielding a bolo knife over the hilly plantations.

Now Mr. Gomez has come back to the land, but to pick thousands of strawberries each day on the Green Valley Farm near this village, where he lives with sixty-five fellow-workers in a special camp provided by the superintendent, Robert Fox. *Thu. 6-16-49*  
100 at Camp Nearby

Nearby at Tivoli are another 100 workers of Puerto Rican birth, who live at a former 'boys' camp and pick berries on two dozen farms of the Northern Dutchess County Growers Association, a co-

### Farmers Are Pleased

The success of the program can be measured by the reactions of the participants. Mr. Fox, the Green Valley superintendent, reported that his Puerto Rican tenants were excellent workers, averaging better than 100 quarts of berries a day and occasionally going as high as 200 or more.

The islanders themselves like the work and the return from city life to a more wholesome and familiar type of climate.

To make life a little more homelike, the Green Valley camp has its own Puerto Rican chef, Antonio R. Andino of 115 East 109th Street, a graduate of the Army cooking school at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. He mixes standard Yankee fare with highly spiced native dishes of rice, tomatoes and peppers.

Dutchess County is proving profitable as well as pleasant for its newest charges. At 6½ cents a quart, the average picker earns \$40 to \$60 a week, considerably more than a bus boy's or dishwasher's wages in the city. Room and board at the Green Valley camp is \$10.50 a week, also a contrast to the metropolitan cost of living.

The language problem, originally something of a problem to the farm supervisors, has been solved by including in each picking team at least one islander with enough English to qualify him for the post of interpreter. But local residents are still accustoming themselves to hearing an excited babble of Spanish echoing over the Dutchess County hills.



A tired and perspiring worker comes in with a good haul





The men relax in their army-type barracks after an eight-hour session in the fields. Most of the men pick on an average of 100 quarts of berries a day.

The New York Times (by Edward Hausner)



## String Beans Brought Nearly \$7,000



Renting most of their cotton land to tenants, the Williamses of Elloree, S. C., have shifted to food crop production. They are shown packing string beans for market. Off 20 acres, they harvested 3,500 hampers of beans which brought nearly \$7,000. Left to right are: Willie B. Williams, his brother, E. N. Williams, State leader of extension work; and their nephew, Robert Williams.

## PEONAGE AT ITS WORST!

## Farmer Forced to Flee, Expecting Wife Jailed

NEW YORK (NNPA) — A South Carolina sharecropper, who is the father of 11 children, last Wednesday unfolded a tale of his experiences which bordered on slavery and which resulted in his being placed on a chain gang and his pregnant wife impounded in a South Carolina jail.

Henry Sapp, a sharecropper of Ellington, S.C., told his story at a press conference called by Communist City Councilman Benjamin Davis whom Sapp has engaged as his counsel. According to Mr. Sapp, this is the story: After working for Haywood Get-

Sapp and demanded that Sapp's two oldest sons work for him on another farm. Sapp refused. Gettings eventually arrested Sapp.

The next day the county sheriff and two deputies came to the farm, arrested Sapp on charges of "disorderly conduct" and "breaking a contract."

**Sixty Days Without Hearing**  
Sapp was taken away and sentenced to the chain gang for 60 days without any pretense of a hearing or a trial. While he was serving the 60-day term, Gettings took Sapp's 1938 Ford off the farm and sold it.

After serving the 60 days, during which time he was beaten by prison officials, Sapp was then taken to jail for a reason yet unknown to him and kept there for two days and one night.

He then was released and went back to his farm and worked it for 30 days.

At the end of the 30 days Gettings refused to pay Sapp although he had paid the family while Sapp was in the chain gang.

### Learns Wife Has Been Jailed

Sapp then moved his family away in the night to the homes of friends and relatives and left Ellington for New York. He did not bring his wife with him because she is pregnant and could not make the trip.

After arriving in New York, Sapp received a letter from relatives stating that his wife has been arrested and placed in jail.

Believing that the jailing of his wife is a reprisal for his "breaking contract," Sapp sought legal counsel of Mr. Davis.

### Fears for Safety, Future

He stated at the press conference that he is fearful for his wife's safety, especially inasmuch as she is pregnant.

He also said that he is fearful that she will be intimidated and threatened into signing another "contract" which will bind his sons and the remainder of his family to work for Gettings the rest of their lives.

The South Carolinian said he is anxious to get his wife out of the South Carolina jail and bring her to New York with his children where they will be safe. He asked the Harlem community for a job and a place to stay.

William Patterson, executive secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, and Mr. Davis said that in the event South Carolina authorities try to extradite Sapp, the move will be fought by the Congress in the courts.

### "Vicious Case of Peonage"

Davis, a candidate for re-election to his post as councilman,

called the case one of the most vicious cases of peonage slavery ever to come to his attention.

"How," Mr. Davis asked, "can Tom Clark and Harry Truman explain the failure to root out the peonage-slavery and Klan lynch-ers which terrorize the colored people as in the case of Mr. Sapp?"

"How can they explain the failure to bring justice to a single lyncher of the colored people? It is impossible for them to explain their continued attacks upon the Communists who fight for the colored people's freedom, while they do nothing to bring the slavers and lynchers to justice."

Mr. Sapp has a brother and a sister living in New York and he is currently staying with them, but reporters were asked not to divulge their address.